



## 'ALĪ B. MAS'ŪD

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'ALĪ B. MAS'ŪD I, BAHĀ'-AL-DAWLA ABU'L-ḤASAN, Ghaznavid sultan, reigned ca. 440/1048-49. Mas'ūd II b. Mawdūd and then 'Alī b. Mas'ūd I were the two ephemeral successors of Sultan Mawdūd b. Mas'ūd I (r. 432-41/1041-50). Little is known about their reigns; many later sources do not even mention their existence. Our main knowledge of 'Alī's brief reign derives from Ebn Bābā Qāšānī's 6th/12th century *adab* work, the *Ketāb ra's māl al-nadīm*, from Jūzjānī's *Ṭabaqāt*, and from Ferešta; these indicate that the dying Mawdūd appointed his infant son Mas'ūd as his heir, but he reigned only for a few days before the military commanders and great men of state in Ġazna deposed him and raised to the throne in his stead Mawdūd's brother 'Alī. This last is a wholly obscure figure, and such historians as Gardīzī and Bayhaqī do not mention him in the extant parts of their works as having previously played any part in affairs. According to Ebn Bābā, 'Alī reigned for only forty-five days before the new army leaders removed him and consigned him to imprisonment in a fortress; during his few weeks' reign he had acquired the honorific of Bahā'-al-dawla, but apparently he did not issue any coins. His uncle 'Abd-al-Rašīd b. Maḥmūd was then raised to power. Ferešta has several details about 'Alī and his reign but places his accession to power in Ša'bān, 441/December, 1049-January, 1050, which is probably too late a date, and states that he reigned for two years before his deposition; it is possible that some events relating to the next reign have been transferred backwards to 'Alī's sultanate.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Ebn Bābā Qāšānī, *Ketāb ra’s māl al-nadīm*, ed.

M. S. Badawī, unpublished dissertation, 2 vols., Manchester, 1975.

Bosworth, *The Later Ghaznavids*, pp. 37-40, 141; the appendix of this book includes a translation, with commentary, of Ebn Bābā’s section on the history of the Ghaznavids.