



'ALĪ B. 'OBAYDALLĀH ŞĀDEQ

'ALĪ B. 'OBAYDALLĀH ŞĀDEQ, ABU'L ḤASAN, called by Bayhaqī and Ebn Bābā Qāšānī 'ALĪ DĀYA (probably <day “maternal uncle,” bestowed by the ruler on a servant as a term of endearment or special confidence), Ghaznavid military commander under Sultan Mas'ūd I b. Maḥmūd. The form of his name indicates a Tajik origin rather than a Turkish one, but nothing is known of his early career, which must have begun under Sultan Maḥmūd. It may be that he was one of the commanders who abandoned Moḥammad for Mas'ūd's side during the succession struggle of 421/1030; but the use of the simple name 'Alī or 'Alī Ḥāḥeb in the sources normally refers to 'Alī b. Il-Arslan Qarīb. 'Alī Dāya makes frequent appearances in the pages of Bayhaqī's history. Although in the early part of the reign 'Alī Qarīb spoke contemptuously of him as one of the group of feeble commanders who were “neither women nor men” (Bayhaqī, p. 53), when 'Alī Qarīb, the Amir Yūsuf b. Sebūktigin and other commanders were removed from office, 'Alī Dāya became commander-in-chief of the army in Khorasan in place of the disgraced Astīgtigin Ġāzī, having the approval of the vizier Maymandī (1 Jomādā I 423/15 April 1032). He was then dispatched westwards with 4,000 cavalymen (ibid., p. 342). During these years, the great poet Manūčehrī addressed at least one ode to him (*Dīvān*, ed. M. Dabīrsiāqī, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959, pp. 62-66, no. 30; see also p. 329). 'Alī Dāya's military efforts were, however, useless against the Saljuqs and their Oġuz followers in Khorasan. He fought at the battle of Dandānqān when the Ghaznavid forces were decisively defeated and inevitably shared in the obloquy heaped on his commanders by Mas'ūd. Together with Sūbāšī, Begtoġdī, and others he was seized (18 Du'l-qa'da 431/31 July 1040), made to disgorge large sums of money,



and eventually, according to Gardīzī (ed. Nazim, p. 108, ed. Ḥabībī, p. 203), imprisoned in an Indian fortress, where he soon died.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Bayhaqī, *passim* (the main primary source).

R. Gelpke, *Sulṭān Mas‘ūd I. von Ġazna. Die drei ersten Jahre seiner Herrschaft (421/1030-424/1033)*, Munich, 1937, pp. 86, 129.

Bosworth, *Later Ghaznavids*, pp. 21, 139, 148, 153 (includes a tr. of the work by Ebn Bābā mentioned above).