



A'MĀ

A'MĀ, ABU'L-'ABBĀS SĀ'EB B. FARRŪK, 1st-2nd/7th-8th century poet from Azarbaijan who wrote in Arabic. His father must have been a *mawlā* of the Banū Jađīma b. 'Adī, a relation Sā'eb inherited. His permanent epithet, A'mā, suggests that he was born blind. He spent his life in Mecca, where he grew up among the sons of the Companions, on whose authority he transmitted Hadiths of the Prophet. The traditions he transmitted are included in the six main Sunni books of Hadith; such unanimous acknowledgement of his trustworthiness should rebut accusations of dissolute behavior springing from political considerations. A'mā was a partisan of the Omayyads, expressed mild anti-Shi'ite feelings, and was bitterly opposed to the Zobayrīs, with the sole exception of Moṣ'ab, who had been kind to him. In the year 75/694, when the Omayyad caliph, 'Abd-al-Malek, performed the pilgrimage for the first time after the defeat of the Zobayrīs, A'mā was rewarded with heaps of silk and other cloths and 100,000 dirhams. After that the Omayyads looked after him and the Qurayshites in Mecca treated him well to please the Omayyads. His love for his patrons was sincere and unabating, and he lived to witness their tragic end. He must have died between 136-140, or, more probably, shortly after 140/757-58, at an age of not less than seventy-five. He left a son called 'Alā', who was also a reliable traditionist (Ebn Abī Ḥātem, *al-Jarḥ wa'l-ta'dīl*, Hyderabad, 8 vols., 1941-53, VI, p. 356). Abu'l-'Abbās was prolific in praising the Omayyads and satirizing the Zobayrīs; his remaining fragments display a strong strain of romanticism, especially visible in the deep pathos of his elegies for the Omayyads and Moṣ'ab b. Zobayr.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ebn Sa'd, V, p. 351.

Aḡānī XVI, pp. 298-306.

Yāqūt, *Odabā'* (Cairo) XI, p. 179.

Şafadī, *Nakt al-hemyān*, Cairo, 1911, pp. 153-55.

Kotobī, *Fawāt*, Beirut, 1974, II, pp. 41-42.

Ebn Ḥaġar 'Asqalānī, *Tahdīb al-tahdīb*, Hyderabad, 1325/1907, III, p. 449.

(I. Abbas)