



‘AMĪD, ABŪ ‘ABDALLĀH

‘AMĪD, ABŪ ‘ABDALLĀH AL-ḤOSAYN B. MOḤAMMAD, known as Kolah (said to be an opprobrious term), secretary and official in northern Persia and Transoxania during the 4th/10th century, and father of Abu’l-Faḡl Moḡammad b. ‘Amīd, the celebrated vizier of the Buyid amir Rokn-al-dawla. He was allegedly of lowly birth, originally a hawker in the wheat-merchants’ market in Qom, or a *ḡammāl*, or a food-cleaner (*monqī*, according to Abū Ḥayyān Tawḡidī. He served as a secretary to various soldiers of fortune who appeared in northern Persia during the upsurge of the Daylamīs, including Mardāvīj b. Zīār until his assassination in Isfahan in 323/935, and then Mākān b. Kākī. After the latter’s rebellion and defeat in 329/940 by Abū ‘Alī Moḡtājī, Ḥosayn was taken with other captives to the Samanid capital of Bokhara. There the amir Nūḡ b. Naṡr (331-43/943-54) appointed him head of his *dīvān-e rasā’el* or chancery, with the titles of Shaikh and ‘Amīd, although according to Yāqūt, it was his deputy Abu’l-Qāsem ‘Alī Eskāfī who did the real work. It seems that Ḥosayn was on bad terms with his son Abu’l-Faḡl Moḡammad—perhaps through professional rivalry—and had a formal deposition laid before the *qāzī* of Isfahan that he would have no further dealings with him. Like his son, he was famed as an Arabic epistolary stylist. Ṭa’ālebī says that his *rasā’el* were collected together, and he quotes Abū Eshāq Ebrāhīm Ṣābī’s *Ketāb al-tājī* that some of Ḥosayn’s fine expressions were plagiarized from his son’s work; but he regards this as a calumny motivated by professional jealousy.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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