



## 'AMR B. YA'QŪB

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'AMR B. YA'QŪB B. MOḤAMMAD B. 'AMR B. LAYṬ ABŪ ḤAFṢ, great-grandson of the co-founder of the Saffarid dynasty and ephemeral boy amir in Sīstān, 299-301/912-13. The first Saffarid empire had collapsed a decade after the defeat and capture of 'Amr b. Layṭ, and Sīstān itself had come under Samanid occupation in 298/911, with Abū Ṣāleḥ Maṣṣūr b. Eshāq, cousin of the amir Aḥmad b. Esmā'īl, as governor. The occupying forces speedily became unpopular, especially as Maṣṣūr b. Eshāq made excessive fiscal demands on the populace of the province. A patriotic movement broke out in 299/912 headed by the Kharijite (Gardīzī, Ebn al-Aṭīr) Moḥammad b. Hormoz, called *mawlā* Sandalī, a former *mawlā* of the Saffarid prince Moḥammad b. 'Amr b. Layṭ (d. 274/887). Such a rising had to be headed by a representative of the Saffarid house, under which Sīstān had achieved significance; this was found in the ten-year old prince 'Amr b. Ya'qūb, the only surviving member of the dynasty from the direct line of the original two Saffarid brothers. Moḥammad b. Hormoz and the *'ayyārs* of Sīstān slaughtered the Samanid garrison in Zarang and arrested Maṣṣūr b. Eshāq, but once in power, Moḥammad b. Hormoz's ambitions led him to try and set aside 'Amr b. Ya'qūb and to have the *koṭba* read in his own name. Legitimist feeling was too strong for him, and pro-Saffarid forces under Moḥammad b. 'Abbās Kūlakī succeeded in installing 'Amr b. Ya'qūb on the throne in Zarang on 12 Ramaḥān 299/2 May 912. Meanwhile, Aḥmad b. Esmā'īl was preparing an expedition to restore his authority in Sīstān. An army under Ḥosayn b. 'Alī Marv-al-rūdī and then a second force under Abū Bakr Moḥammad b. Moḥaffar Moḥtājī and Sīmḥūr Dawātī entered Sīstān and suppressed the local independence movement.



Manṣūr b. Eshāq was freed, the 'ayyār leaders killed, and 'Amr b. Ya'qūb sent into honorable exile at the court of Bukhara (Šawwāl-Ḍu'l-ḥejja, 300/May-July, 913). A second Samanid occupation under Sīmǰūr's governorship followed, but this was to last only for a year or so; then the Amir Aḥmad b. Esmā'īl was assassinated and the state fell into chaos.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The most detailed account is in the *Tārīk-e Sīstān*, pp. 297-302, tr. pp. 240-44; to be supplemented by Gardīzī, ed. Nazem, pp. 23-24, ed.

Ḥabībī, p. 149, and Ebn al-Aṭīr, VIII, pp. 52-53.

Of secondary sources, see J. Walker, *The Coinage of the Second Saffarid Dynasty in Sistan*, ANS Numismatic Notes and Monographs 72, New York 1936, p. 11, and *Camb. Hist. Iran IV*, pp. 130.