



## ARMĀ'ĪL

**ARMĀ'ĪL** (Mid. Pers. Armāyēl “the Aramean,” with a Georgian ethnic suffix, as noted by Markwart, *Provincial Capitals*, p. 68), a legendary figure in the myth of Ẓahḥāk. In Mid. Pers. literature, he is mentioned in a corrupt passage of *Šahristānīhā ī Īrān* (sec. 28, in Markwart, op. cit., p. 15, and H. S. Nyberg, *A Manual of Pahlavi I*, Wiesbaden, 1964, p. 115.10ff.), where he is associated in some way with Ṭabarestān (Padišxwār-gar). Armā'īl occurs more often in classical Islamic works which drew on Iranian sources now lost, particularly the Mid. Pers. *Xwadāy-nāmag*. According to the *Šāh-nāma*, two young Persians of royal stock, the pious Armāyēl (*rm'yl*, variant: *'rm'nk*) and the foresighted Garmāyēl (variant: *grm'nk*) worked as cooks for the tyrant Ẓahḥāk ([Moscow] I, p. 52.2ff.; cf. F. Wolff, *Glossar zu Firdosis Schahname*, Berlin, 1935, p. 54). The two snakes which sprouted from Ẓahḥāk's shoulders were to be fed with the brains of victims, but some of these were saved by the two princes, for which Armā'īl was rewarded by Ferīdūn (see Markwart, op. cit., p. 69). Ṭa'ālebī (*Ġorar*, pp. 24-26) relates the same story; so do Ṭabarī (I, p. 206) and Mas'ūdī (*Morūj* III, p. 252), but they do not mention Armā'īl's name. (See also Yāqūt, II, p. 607; Dīnavarī, p. 7; and an uncertain passage in the *Fehrest*, p. 12.28; for other references, see Markwart, op. cit., p. 68.) From the *Šāh-nāma* version, the anecdote of the princes as cooks entered the *Borhān-e qāte'* (Tehran, 1336 Š./1957, p. 77, s.v. *'rm'yyl*).

The name Armā'īl is also attested in Armenian and Georgian sources, e.g., as the name of a member of the Mihrean family of the Sasanian clan (*ibid.*, p. 68).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also J. F. Dowsett, *The History of the Caucasian Albanians by Movsēs Dasxuranci*, London, 1961, pp. 108, 225.

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