



ASAD B. SĀMĀNĶODĀ

ASAD B. SĀMĀNĶODĀ, (Sāmānḵodāt in Naršaḵī), ancestor of the Samanid dynasty. Sāmānḵodā seems to have been a local landowner (*dehqān*) of the village of Sāmān in the district of Balk. Bīrunī gives a genealogy going back four generations from Sāmānḵodā to the Sasanian Bahrām Čübīn (*Ātār al-bāqīa*, p. 39; *Chronology*, p. 48); while Gardīzī traces the line back to Gayomart, the first man (ed. Nazim, pp. 19-20; ed. Ḥabībī, p. 145). This affiliation of the Samanids with the Sasanians, whatever its truth, was generally accepted by contemporaries (as Bīrūnī testifies). Sāmānḵodā became a Muslim at the hands of Asad b. ‘Abdallāh Qasrī (not Qošayrī), the Omayyad governor in Khorasan (106-09/724-27, 117-20/735-38; he was not under al-Ma’mūn, *pace* Gardīzī’s information). Asad was named after this governor. Of his life nothing is known, but he must have flourished in the late 2nd/8th and early 3rd/9th centuries. His four sons Nūḥ, Aḥmad, Yaḥyā, and Elyās were appointed deputy governors in towns of Ṭokārestān and Transoxania by al-Ma’mūn’s governor of Khorasan, Ġassān b. ‘Abbād (202-05/817-20). With them began the growth of Samanid fortunes in Transoxania.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Barthold, *Turkestan*³, p. 209.

Naršaḳī, pp. 81-82, 104-05, 263; tr. R. N. Frye, *The History of Bukhara*, Cambridge, Mass., 1954, p. 76.

Ebn al-Atīr, VII, p. 279.

Frye in *Camb. Hist. Iran* IV, p. 136.

C. E. Bosworth, "The Heritage of Rulership in Early Islamic Iran and the Search for Dynastic Connections with the Past," *Iran* 11, 1973, pp. 58-59.