



ĀZĀDSARV

ĀZĀDSARV. Two bearers of this name are known.

1. A *mōbad* in the reign of **Ḳosrow I Anōšīravān** and one of the emissaries whom **Ḳosrow** sent to all corners of the kingdom in search of a dream interpreter (*Šāh-nāma* [Moscow] VIII, p. 111 vv. 990f.). **Āzādsarv** went to Marv, found in a school in the town, the youthful **Bozorgmehr** who claimed this ability, and brought him to the royal presence.

2. A scholar in the entourage of **Aḥmad b. Sahl** (d. 307/920), governor of Marv in the second half of the 3rd/9th century. In the surviving national legends, **Āzādsarv** is named as the source of three stories: the story of **Rostam** and **Šaḡād** (*Šāh-nāma* VI, p. 322 vv. 1f.), the *Farāmarz-nāma* (mss. B.M. and Bib. Nat.), and the *Dāstān-e Šabrang* (ms. B.M.). The fact that all these stories belong to the **Sīstān** legend cycle lends credence to **Ferdowsī's** remark that **Āzādsarv** “knew many of **Rostam's** battles by heart” (loc. cit., v. 4). The writings of **Āzādsarv** probably comprised more than the three stories just mentioned; it seems highly probable that all or most of the **Sīstān** legends, i.e., stories of **Rostam** and his family, recounted in the *Šāh-nāma* and elsewhere stem directly or indirectly from **Āzādsarv**.

Āzādsarv resided and did his literary work at Marv, although **Ferdowsī's** assertion that **Āzādsarv** “traced his ancestry to **Sām** son of **Narīmān**” (loc. cit., v. 4) could be interpreted as implying that he was of **Sīstāni** origin. He is described in the *Farāmarz-nāma* as the “cypress (*sarv*) of **Māhān** of Marv” and in the *Dāstān-e Šabrang* as the “foremost lamp of **Māhān** of Marv.” **Māhān**,



which is also mentioned in the *Šāh-nāma* (loc. cit., v. 30), is probably identical with Mīr Māhān, a suburban village of Marv (Eṣṭakrī, p. 260; Moqaddasī, p. 231; Yāqūt, IV, p. 714).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Ebn al-Aṭīr, repr. Gardīzī, ed. ‘A. Ḥ. Ḥabībī. S. Ḥ. Taqīzāda, “Mašāhīr-e šo‘arā-ye Īrān,” *Kāva*, repr. in Ḥ. Yaġmā‘ī, ed., *Ferdowsī wa Šāh-nāma-ye ū*, Tehran, 1349 Š./1970.

Ḍ. Şafā, *Ḥamāsa-sarā‘ī dar Īrān*, Tehran, 1333 Š./1954.

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