



BAYTUZ

BAYTUZ, a Turkish commander who controlled the town of **Bost** in southern Afghanistan during the middle years of the 4th/10th century. Turkish control of the town dated from the time when the Samanid slave (*gōlām*) commander Qaratigin Esfijābī had withdrawn to Bost and the adjacent region of Rokkaj (at some time before his death in 317/929) where his followers apparently retained power after the collapse of the first Saffarid empire and the reduction of the succeeding Saffarid amirs to a modest role as rulers in Sīstān. It seems that in the third quarter of the 10th century CE, the rule within Bost was disputed between two of these Turkish soldiers, Baytuz and Toġan. Baytuz was certainly in control in 359/970, for a bronze coin of this date, of Samanid pattern but without mentioning the Samanids as suzerains and minted by him, has been found at Laškari Bāzār (q.v.), subsequently a palace site of the Ghaznavids (see J.-C. Gardin, *Lashkari Bazar II: Les trouvailles, céramiques et monnaies de Lashkari Bazar et Bust*, MDFA 18, 1963, pp. 170-71). This confirms the information in the *Tārīk-eSīstān* (p. 333; tr. p. 272, where one must obviously read Bāytūz for Yūztemir) that Baytuz gained, or regained, possession of Bost after it had been temporarily captured by an amir from Sīstān Ṭāher b. Abī ‘Alī Tamīmī. However, in 367/977-78 another Turkish slave commander, Sebūktigin (q.v.), who had established himself at Ġazna in eastern Afghanistan, made an appeal from Toġan the pretext for intervention at Bost. He eventually expelled Baytuz and Toġan (who are said to have fled westward to Sīstān and Kermān, disappearing from recorded history) and added Bost and southern Afghanistan to his own dominions, which became the nucleus of the later Ghaznavid empire. It was from the service of Baytuz



that the famous secretary and Arabic stylist *Abu'l-Faḥ Bostī*—with Sebūktigin's victory over his master—now entered the Ghaznavid service.

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