



## BOKAYR B. MĀHĀN

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**BOKAYR B. MĀHĀN MARVAZĪ, ABŪ HĀŠEM**, a leading 'Abbasid propagandist (*dā'ī*). Towards the end of the Omayyad caliphate he was the translator (*tarjomān*) or secretary (*kāteb*) to Jonayd b. 'Abd-al-Raḥmān, the governor of Sind (Ṭabarī, years 105 and 124), and was said to be a Shi'ite (Dīnavarī, ed. Guirgass, pp. 335-36). Some historians have recorded his name as Bakr (Maqdesī, *Bad'* VI, p. 59; Ya'qūbī, *Ta'riḳ* II, p. 383; Jahšīārī, Cairo, 1938, p. 55). From Sind he returned to his native town, Kūfa (Ṭabarī, II, p. 1467); there he met the 'Abbasid *dā'īs* (Abd 'Ekrema, Moḥammad b. Kōnays, Maysara 'Abdī, etc.), was recruited by them to join the 'Abbasid movement, and spent the fortune he had amassed in Sind, which consisted of three silver and one gold bullions, in the service of this cause (Ṭabarī, II, p. 1467; Dīnavarī, loc. cit.). After the death of Maysara 'Abdī, Imam Moḥammad b. 'Alī, the head of the 'Abbasids, appointed Bokayr, who had come to visit him in Ḥomayma in Syria, in his place and returned him to Iraq to propagate the 'Abbasid cause. In 107/725, Bokayr sent a number of *dā'īs* to Khorasan, all of whom except one were killed by Asad b. 'Abd-Allāh Qasrī, the governor of Khorasan (Ṭabarī, II, p. 1488). In 118/736 Bokayr sent 'Ammār b. Yazīd—or, according to Maqdesī (p. 60), 'Ammār b. Bodayl—to Khorasan as the leader (*wālī*) of the 'Abbasid movement there. 'Ammār went to Marv, but after a time he gave up his allegiance to the 'Abbasid cause, changed his name to Kēdāš, and called the people to the [Korramī](#) religion. He was finally killed on the orders of Asad b. 'Abd-Allāh Qasrī (Ṭabarī, II, pp. 1588-89). Imam Moḥammad b. 'Alī, who had been infuriated at the action of 'Ammār, sent Bokayr to Khorasan. However, the people of Khorasan refused to accept Bokayr as the imam's envoy. Bokayr



returned to Imam Moḥammad b. ‘Alī but was sent back to Khorasan with staffs (‘eṣṣy) which signified a message from the imam. He showed the staffs to the leaders (*noqabā’*) of the movement, who then accepted him (Ṭabarī, II, p. 1640; Maqdesī, p. 61). In 126/743-44 Ebrāhīm b. Moḥammad b. ‘Alī, known as Ebrāhīm the Imam, who had succeeded his father, sent Bokayr to Khorasan with his will and testament (*waṣīya* and *sīra*). Bokayr went to Marv, gathered together the *noqabā’* and *dā’īs*, informed them of the death of Moḥammad b. ‘Alī, and read them the letter of Ebrāhīm. He was well received by them and was sent back to the imam with the donations which they had collected (Ṭabarī, II, p. 1869). On the day of his death in 128/745-46, Bokayr wrote a letter to Ebrāhīm and appointed his son-in-law, Abū Salama Ḳallāl, as his successor.

Bokayr was also the person who introduced [Abū Moslem](#) to the imam. Discussing the events of the year 124/741, Ṭabarī has narrated a story according to which Bokayr got to know ‘Isā b. Ma‘qel in prison, bought his slave Abū Moslem from him, and after being released from prison sent Abū Moslem to Ebrāhīm. However, this story seems to have been fabricated by the ‘Abbasids in order to taint Abū Moslem’s reputation.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Given in the text.

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