



## ČAĠANĪ, ṬĀHER

**ČAĠANĪ, ṬĀHER** b. Abi'l-'Abbās Fażl b. Abī Bakr Moḥammad b. Abī Sa'd Moẓaffar b. Moḥtāj (d. 381/991), prince and poet of the ancient Iranian **Āl-e Moḥtāj**, ruler of Čaġāniān (Čaġān Kōdāt). In a poem by Badī' Balkī, (or Badāye'ī Balkī, a poet in his service) his patronymic is given as Abū Yaḥyā, whereas Gardīzī, in *Zayn at-aḳbār* (ed. Ḥabībī, p. 168), has given Abu'l-Ḥasan. Some *taḍkeras* also call him Abu'l-Moẓaffar, which is, however, more likely to have been the patronymic of Faḳr-al-Dawla Čaġāni, who disputed the throne with Ṭāher and was probably his cousin (see below). The Čaġāniīs ruled the region around the **Čaġāniān**, the northernmost tributary of Amu Darya, and their capital, Čaġāniān, is believed to have been on the site either of the present Dehnow (Deh-e Now) or of Sarāsīa, just north of Dehnow.

In 321/933 Ṭāher's grandfather Abū Bakr Moḥammad b. Moẓaffar was made military governor of Khorasan by Naṣr b. Aḥmad Sāmāni (301-31/913-42). Ṭāher's father and uncle also held important posts under the Samanids. In the reign of Nūḥ b. Maṣṣūr Sāmāni (366-87/976-97), during the rebellion of Abū 'Alī Sīmǰūrī (military governor of Khorasan) and the general Fā'eq-e Kāṣṣa, Ṭāher himself was appointed governor of Čaġāniān, replacing his cousin Abu'l-Moẓaffar. The latter then appealed to Fā'eq's forces for help. Ṭāher responded by marching on Balk, where he met with strong resistance. In the ensuing battle he was decapitated and his army dispersed (*Zayn al-aḳbār*, loc. cit.; Jorfādaqāni, pp. 93-94). This battle took place in 381/991, so that the claim in some sources that Ṭāher died in 377/987 is incorrect.

Beside being a man of learning and a poet, Ṭāher b. Fażl was a patron of poets

