



EBN BĀBĀWAYH (1)

EBN BĀBĀWAYH (Bābūya), family of Persian builders, luster potters, and tile makers, descended from the Shi'ite scholar *Ebn Bābūya al-Ṣadūq* (d. 382/991) and active in the 6th to 8th/12th to 14th centuries in central Persia. Several members are known.

1. Emām Jamāl-al-Dīn Bābūya Rāfe'ī, a builder (*me'mār*), who in 572/1176-77 rebuilt the city walls of Qāzvīn and faced them with baked brick (*Nozhat al-qolūb*, ed. Le Strange, p. 58).

2. 'Alī b. Aḥmad, a well-known luster potter who signed three important pieces: a medium *meḥrāb* dated 705/1305, taken from the Emānzāda Yaḥyā at Varāmīn (St. Petersburg, Hermitage); a small *meḥrāb* tile (London, Victoria and Albert Museum, 1527-1876), pair to the "Salting" *meḥrāb*; and a medium *meḥrāb* dated 713/1313-14 or 723/1323 (Watson, p. 179).

3. Ḥasan b. 'Alī b. Aḥmad, son of the above, active in the early 8th/14th century. In Ṣawwāl 709/March 1310 he made a set of three luster tiles decorated with an epigraphic arch supporting a hanging lamp (New York, Metropolitan Museum, 09.87). The tiles were probably designed for the cenotaph in the tomb of Shaikh 'Abd-al-Ṣamad at Naṭanz, for Ḥasan's name is inscribed in interlaced Kufic on the capitals below the superb stucco inscription dated 707/1307-8 around the tomb. He may well have made the molded and carved units for the *moqarnas* dome in the tomb. He signed a stucco *meḥrāb* dated 736/1335-36 in the shrine of Emānzāda Abu'l-Faḏl wa Yaḥyā at Maḥallāt-e Bālā, a village twenty-five km from Delījān in central Persia (Wilber, p. 137,



pls. 66-67). Its shallow and stiff carving and misspellings suggest that he was an old man by this point.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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