



EBN MARZOBĀN, ABŪ AḤMAD ‘ABD-AL-RAḤMĀN

EBN MARZOBĀN (Marzbān), ABŪ AḤMAD ‘ABD-AL-RAḤMĀN. b. ‘Alī b. Marzbān Ṭabīb Marzbānī (d. Tostar, Jomādā I 396/February-March 1006), administrative official under the Buyids.

Ebn al-Qeṭṭī and Ebn al-Aṭīr, the only two sources providing scanty information on Ebn Marzobān, consider him a descendent of a family originally based in Isfahan. He appears, however, to have spent most of his life around Baghdad and in Kūzestān. His grandfather's name indicates that his forebears had been of Persian origin. Ebn Marzobān received training in both religious law (*šarī‘a*) and the sciences (*‘elm al-ṭabī‘a*). Under Buyid patronage, this double qualification must have facilitated his appointment as judge of Tostar and as a superintendent of a hospital in Baghdad. It is, however, questionable whether his work at the hospital, most probably primarily administrative, was sufficiently concerned with medicine proper to have earned him the title *ṭabīb* (physician) as mentioned by Ebn al-Qeṭṭī. He served at both functions until the end of his life. The hospital he administered is no doubt the famous ‘Azodī *bīmārestān* founded by ‘Azod-al-Dawla in 372/982, shortly before his death.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

D. M. Dunlop, “Bīmāristān. i” in *EI2* I, pp. 1222-24.

Ebn al-Qeṭṭī, *Ta’rīk al-ḥokamā’*, ed. J. Lippert, Leipzig, 1903, p. 230.

Ebn al-Aṭīr, IX, pp. 134-38.

Ebn Kallekān, ed. ‘Abbās, III, p. 281, no 427.

Abū Maṣṣūr Jawālīqī, *Ketāb al-mo‘arrab men al-kalām al-‘ajamī ‘alā ḥorūf al-mo‘jam*, ed. E. Sachau, Leipzig, 1867.