



ESMĀ'ĪL, B. YASĀR NESĀ'Ī

ESMĀ'ĪL, b. Yasār NESĀ'Ī, a poet of Persian origin from Medina (d. before 132/750). He was the descendant of a Persian prisoner of war from Azarbaijan and lived in Medina, where he had been born, as a client (*mawlā*) of Taym b. Morra. The *nesba* Nesā'ī is said to derive from Arabic *nesā'* (woman) and refer to his father's occupation, which is said to have been preparing meals or selling carpets for weddings; but this is questionable (Pellat, p. 189; Sezgin, *GAS* II, pp. 429-30). He supported the Zubayrid's cause; but after the defeat and death of 'Abd-Allāh b. Zobayr in 73/692, he attached himself to the Omayyad court and, despite strong anti-Arab sentiments permeating most of his poetry, out of necessity praised a number of Omayyad caliphs and princes in panegyrics. He was eventually punished and exiled to Ḥejāz after he recited before the caliph Hešām b. 'Abd-al-Malek a poem in which he had glorified his Persian ancestors without praising the caliph. Samples of his poetry in *Aḡānī* (pp. 409-28) suggest a talented poet with considerable range and versatility. He may be justifiably called one of the earliest Šo'ūbī poets in Arabic (Nallino, pp. 213-15; Rescher, I, p. 186; Ḥosayn, p. 160-61). Some of his lyrics were put to music. He died a very old man before the fall of the Omayyads (132/750). His two brothers, Moḥammad and Mūsā Šahawāt, and his son, Ebrāhīm, were also poets.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abu'l-Faraj Eṣfahānī, *Ketāb al-āgānī* IV, Beirut, 1956.

Brocklemann, *GAL* I, p. 60; S. I, p. 95.

Ebn Qotayba Dīnavarī, *al-Še'r wa'l-šo'arā'*, ed. A. Šāker, 2 vols., Cairo, 1364-69/1945-50, II, p. 577.

I. Goldziher, *Muslim Studies*, tr. and ed. C. R. Barber and S. M. Stern, 2 vols., London, 1967-71, I, p. 148.

Ṭ. Ḥosayn, *Fi'l-adab al-jāheli*, 13th ed., Cairo, 1977.

Abū 'Abd-Allāh Moḥammad b. Sallām Jomaḥī, *Ṭabaqāt foḥūl al-šo'arā'*, ed. M. M. Šāker, Cairo, 1952, I, pp. 408-9; II, pp. 675-76.

Ch. Pellat, "Ismā'īl b. Yasār," in *EI2* IV, pp. 189-90.

C.-A. Nallino, *La littérature Arabe*, tr. Ch. Pellat, Paris, 1950, pp. 210-15.

O. Rescher, *Abriss der arabischen Litteraturgeschichte*, Osnabrück, 1983, pp. 186-88.

Ḳayr-al-Dīn Zerekli, *Qāmūs al-a'lām* I, Beirut, 1979, p. 329.