



## FALAKĪ ŠARVĀNĪ, ABU'L-NEZĀM MOḤAMMAD

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**FALAKĪ ŠARVĀNĪ (ŠERVĀNĪ), Abu'l-Nezām Moḥammad**, a Persian poet of the first half of the 6th/12th century. The only ruler mentioned in his published poems is the Šarvānšāh Manūčehr II, who ruled ca. 516-55/1122-61 (for these dates see Storey and de Blois, V/2, p. 248, n. 2). It is thus likely that Falakī died during his reign. The date 577/1181-82, which Taqī Kāšī and others give for his death, is probably much too late since Kāqānī's elegy on Falakī indicates that he died at a young age. A statement in the same poem that Falakī was "aware of the mysteries of the nine spheres" could be taken as evidence that he was a professional astronomer, which would explain his pen-name, Falakī, or it could be nothing more than wordplay on Kāqānī's part. From his own poems we learn that Falakī was imprisoned for a time in the fortress of Šābarān and later pardoned and set free by Manūčehr (Ḥasan, 1929, p. 59). A fairly small collection of Falakī's poems was assembled by Hādī Ḥasan (London, 1929), based mainly on a manuscript in Munich. He also published in another monograph a number of previously unknown poems from a Madras manuscript (Ḥasan, 1958). Among other things, the latter includes (pp. 63-67) a very interesting elegy commiserating with Manūčehr and, in particular, with his consort T'amar, on the death of her brother, the Georgian king Demetre I, in 1155. The so-called *dīvān* of Falakī published by Ṭāherī Šehāb (Tehran, 1345 Š./1966) is essentially a reprint of Hādī Ḥasan's first collection.



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