



'OTBI

'**OTBI**, the family name of two viziers of the Samanids of Transoxiana and Khorasan.

1. Abu Ja'far b. Moḥammad b. al-Ḥosayn (thus in Gardizi; the sources are, however, uncertain about his names and *nasab*), vizier in the first place to the Amir 'Abd-al-Malek b. Nuḥ (I) from 344/956 to 348/959. After a military coup, he was appointed vizier in succession to Abu Maṣṣur Moḥammad b. 'Ozayr (Gardizi, p. 41; Barthold, p. 250). He is praised by Kermāni (p. 36), repeated in 'Aqili (p. 147) for replenishing the state treasury to an unprecedented high level; but his money-raising policies aroused discontent and he was deprived of office after two years in favor of Abu Yusof b. Eshāq (Gardizi, loc. cit.; Barthold, loc. cit.). However, he returned to office a few years later, sharing the vizierate for the Amir Maṣṣur (I) b. Nuḥ (I) with Abu 'Ali Moḥammad Bal'ami, till 363/974; Gardizi (p. 47) states that he corresponded and negotiated with the great Buyid statesman Abu'l-Faṭḥ Ebn al-'Amid (q.v.), bringing peace to Khorasan and doing laudable things in that province.

2. Abu'l-Ḥosayn 'Abd-Allāh b. Aḥmad, vizier to the Amir Nuḥ (II) b. Maṣṣur (I) from 367/977 to 372/982. He was appointed in Rabi' II 367/November-December 977 in succession to Abu 'Abdallāh Aḥmad Jayhāni, the deceased Amir Maṣṣur's last vizier, in face of opposition from Abu'l-Ḥasan Moḥammad b. Ebrāhim Simjuri, who considered Abu'l-Ḥosayn too young ('Otbi, p. 38; Gardizi, pp. 48-9; Barthold, p. 251). At the outset, he and Nuḥ's mother in effect ruled the state as regents for the thirteen-year old Amir. 'Otbi endeavored to reduce the power in the state of over-mighty Turkish military commanders,



above all, of Abu'l-Ḥasan Simjuri. Latterly, he worked with the commander-in-chief of the army, Tāš, who had been one of his father's *ḡolāms* ('Otbi, pp. 42-3; Gardizi, pp. 49-50). He was in 372/982 about to join an army at Marv to repel an invasion by the Buyids when he was murdered by agents of the commanders Fā'eq Kāšša (q.v.) and Abu'l-Ḥasan Simjuri; his death was much mourned by the poets, and his kinsman the historian Abu Naṣr Moḥammad b. 'Abd-al-Jabbār 'Otbi (q.v.) rightly considered him the last effectual vizier of the Samanids ('Otbi, pp. 61-5; Gardizi, pp. 50-1; Barthold, p. 252).

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