

FOLKLORE AND POPULAR
LITERATURE

In addition to the verses of poetry about al-'Abbās on tilework in public religious buildings, and particularly in *saqqā-khānahs* (for examples of these verses, see Dādmīhr, 77–79; Shakūrzādah, 459–460; for accounts of his martyrdom in poetry in the *ṭawīl* metre, see Shakūrzādah, 50–54), there are references to his name in everyday speech, for instance in oaths, prayers or curses (see Humāyūnī, *Farhang-i mardum*, 297; Shāmlū, 1/131, 417; 2/473; Massé, 1/121). In the eyes of the chivalrous champions and of athletes, al-'Abbās is seen as possessing all the fundamental attributes of heroism, courage, chivalry and self-sacrifice. He is a true model of all the exemplary qualities worthy of emulation. They also make their serious and sincerest oaths in his name (Bulookbashi, *Qahwa-khānah*, 139; Shahīdī/Bulookbashi, 650–561; Shāmlū, 4/1219).

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Al-'Abbās b. 'Amr al-Ghanawī (d. 305/917), a military commander and provincial governor in the late 3rd/9th century, during the 'Abbāsīd era. Nothing is known of his life prior to 286/899, when he was governor of Fārs. In that year, as the missionary activity (*dā'wa*) of Abū Sa'īd al-Jannābī (q.v.) in Bahrain was intensifying, and the Qarmaṭīs were mounting attacks against the regions of Hajar, advancing as far as the vicinity of Baṣra, the caliph

Abbas b. Amr el-Ganevi

Hemedani, Tesbit, II, 380, 395