

orator who embraced Islam after the Battle of Hunayn. 'Attāb's ostensible weakness contrasts with the image portrayed in a forceful speech he allegedly delivered at his appointment as governor, in which he threatened to punish the Quraysh if they failed to obey God, as mediated through his leadership, if only by neglecting prayer (al-Majlisī, 21:124). Abū Bakr kept 'Attāb as governor of Mecca and even added al-Ṭā'if to his jurisdiction for a short time, as had Muḥammad previously. 'Attāb is described as pious and frugal. One tradition claims that he received from Muḥammad an allowance of one dirham per day for his service as governor (Ibn Hishām, 4:139). Another tradition states that he received two woven garments, which he then gave as a gift to his servant (Ibn Sa'd, 635).

According to most sources, 'Attāb died on the same day as Abū Bakr. Al-Ṭabarī, however, includes a tradition which claims that 'Attāb remained governor of Mecca until 22/643, into the reign of 'Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb (r. 13/634–23/644), the second caliph (al-Ṭabarī, *Ta'riḫ*, 5:2671–2). This claim is rejected by other sources (al-Balādhurī, *Ansāb*, ed. 'Abbās, 4/1:456).

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LYALL ARMSTRONG

al-'Azīmī

Abū 'Abdallāh Muḥammad b. 'Alī b. Muḥammad al-Tanūkhī **al-'Azīmī** (483–556/1090–1161) was a historian, poet, and school teacher from Aleppo. He was a poet and eulogist for Turkmen rulers, such as the Saljuqs of Damascus and the Artuqids of Aleppo, composing in support of their *jihād* against the Crusaders. Around the year 535/1140 al-'Azīmī joined the entourage of 'Imād al-Dīn Zengi (r. 521–41/1127–46) the ruler of Aleppo (Ḥalab), in northern Syria and northern Iraq. Zengi was the patron of al-'Azīmī until his death in 541/1146.

Al-'Azīmī wrote three works of history but only one survives, namely, *Ta'riḫ al-'Azīmī*, which is a very brief history of Aleppo and northern Syria along with accounts of other Muslim populated regions. The book is subdivided in yearly accounts and is abstract and rather