



‘ABD-AL-MO’MEN B. ‘ABDALLĀH

‘ABD-AL-MO’MEN B. ‘ABDALLĀH B. ESKANDAR B. JĀNĪ BEG B. K̲VĀJĀ MOḤAMMAD B. ABU’L-KAYR, ABU’L-FATH, generally reckoned as the eleventh khan of the Shaibanid (Abu’l-Kayrī) dynasty of Māvarā’ al-Nahr and Balk. He was born on 16 Raġab 975/16 January 1568. Little is known of his early life; he was circumcised at age ten and is mentioned as having taken part in the Oloġ Tāġ campaign conducted by his father in the spring of 1582. After ‘Abdallāh Khan succeeded Eskandar as ruler, ‘Abd-al-Mo’men was designated *qa’ālkān* (“heir apparent”) and given Balk to govern. This occurred no later than 1583. Balk remained under his control until his death in 1006/1598.

‘Abd-al-Mo’men’s early years in Balk were devoted to strengthening his position there and annexing Badaġšān. His attention then turned to campaigns in Khorasan against the Qezelbāš. In 996-97/1588-89 he assisted his father in the successful eleven-month siege of Herat and was reportedly displeased when the city was given to an amir, Qol Bābā Kokaltāš, rather than to him. In 997/1589, prompted by the succession problem facing Shah ‘Abbās I, ‘Abdallāh Khan gave his son permission to open a campaign against the major cities of Khorasan. In the next eight years, most of the region fell to ‘Abd-al-Mo’men. By the end of the campaign of 999/1591, the Uzbeks held more than twenty important cities and towns, including Mašhad, Nišāpūr, K̲Vāf, Jām, Esfarā’in, Sabzavār, and Qā’en. A Qezelbāš force sent by Shah ‘Abbās in that year had no success. A year later, however, another Qezelbāš expedition dislodged the



Uzbeks from Esfarā’īn, Sabzavār, and Nišāpūr. ‘Abd-al-Mo’men retook the latter city in 1002/1594; his last Khorasan campaign (1003/1595) resulted in the recapture of Sabzavār for a few days but otherwise accomplished little.

The Shaibanid sultan’s military prowess and ambition brought him into repeated conflict with his father and the latter’s amirs well before ‘Abdallāh Khan’s death. Between 1596 and 1598 several incidents strained relations between the sexagenarian khan and his restless son (Eskandar Beg, pp. 549-52; *Selselet al-salāṭīn* [see bibliog.], fols. 145b-48a). In Raġab, 1006/February, 1598, ‘Abdallāh Khan died. ‘Abd-al-Mo’men came to Samarqand and accepted the tokens of supreme rule. His six-month reign was marked by internal political violence. A counterclaim to the khanate by a cousin in Taškand, Hazāra Solṭān, was brutally suppressed; ‘Abd-al-Mo’men’s execution of Qol Bābā Kokaltāš and the fear that ‘Abd-al-Mo’men was about to purge his father’s amirs led to a plot against his life. Returning from Tāškand and planning a new Khorasan campaign, ‘Abd-al-Mo’men was assassinated at a village near Ūrātepe, perhaps in Du’l-ḥejġa, 1006/July, 1598. This event marked the effective end of Shaibanid rule in Transoxania and Balk despite the fact that two sultans, Pīr Moḥammad at Balk and ‘Abd-al-Amīn at Bokhara, briefly succeeded him. As the western territory fell to Shah ‘Abbās and the east became threatened by renewed Qazaq activity, the Uzbek amirs gave their backing, within a year, to a new Chingizid line, the Toghay-timurid (also called Janid and Ashtarkhanid), whose members would revive the Uzbek empire.

Among ‘Abd-al-Mo’men’s principal works were the rebuilding and extending of the Balk citadel. The walls were lengthened to a circumference of 20,000 paces (*gām*). He also supervised the renovation of a number of public buildings in Balk, including the mosque of Kṽāġa Abū Naṣr Pārsā, the tomb of Kṽāġa ‘Okkāša, and the dome of the Bābā Jānbāz market.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The best source for ‘Abd-al-Mo’men’s early life (until 998/1590) is Ḥāfez Tanīš, *Šarafnāma-ye šāhī*, also known as *‘Abdallāhnāma* (Rieu, *Pers. Man., Supp.*, no 73; Storey, I, no. 504).



For his later life, perhaps the most evenhanded treatment is that of Maḥmūd b. Amīr Valīallāhī, *Baḥr al-asrār fī manāqeb al-ak̄yār* VI, *rokn* 3, (A. A. Semenov, *Sobranie vostochnykh rukopisei Akademii Nauk Uzbekskoī SSR*, Tashkent, 1952-67, V, no. 3564); see V. V. Barthold, “Otchet o komandirovke v Turkestan,” *Sochineniya* VIII, Moscow, 1973, pp. 193-96.

Some of the same material is reiterated in *rokn* 4 of the same work; see Ethé, *Cat. Ind. Off.*, no. 574.

The most detailed information on the Khorasan campaigns is found in Eskandar Beg, *Ālamārā*, and in Ḥājji Mīr Moḥammad Salīm, *Selselat al-salāṭīn* (Ethé, *Cat. Bodleian*, no. 169).

For relations with the Khwarazmian Uzbeks, see Abu'l-Ġāzī, tr., especially pp. 276, 284-85, 288, 290-91, and 293.

Of less importance but with some additional information are Šaraf-al-dīn Andeḡānī, *Tārīk-e Mīr Sayyed Šarīf Rāqem* (Morley, *RAS*, no. 166) and Moḥammad Yūsof Monši, *Tadkera-ye Moqīm Kānī* (Morley, *RAS*, no. 161).

Two important, though brief, secondary sources are V. V. Barthold, “Abd Allāh b. Iskandar,” *EI*² I, pp. 46-47; and *Four Studies on the History of Central Asia* III, Leiden, 1962, pp. 140-41.