



'ABD-AL-RAZZĀQ BĀŠTĪNĪ

'ABD-AL-RAZZĀQ BĀŠTĪNĪ, first leader of the Sarbadār uprising of Bayhaq. His career, like the entire history of the Sarbadār's, is related in a contradictory fashion by the Timurid period chroniclers. With appropriate details, he is pictured as violent and dissolute. Büchner ("Serbedārs," *EI*^I IV, pp. 231-33) is astonished at this depiction, and Petrushevskiĭ sees in it the desire of "feudal" historiography to blacken the instigator of a popular uprising. In fact, this gallows-bird (*sar ba-dār*) was no revolutionary at all, much less a social reformer. The son of a wealthy landowner of Bayhaq, he joined one of his brothers, Amīn-al-dīn, a famous wrestler, in the horde of the Il-Khan Abū Sa'īd in Azarbaijan. He distinguished himself in this typically Khorasanian profession. A tour as tax collector in Kermān rewarded his talents. He squandered the sums collected in debauchery when the Il-khan died. In March, 1337, when he returned to his native town, he associated himself with an unsuccessful village protest provoked by the fiscal measures of the vizier 'Alā'-al-dīn Moḥammad Faryūmadī. The town of Bayhaq felt great bitterness for the family of this vizier because of his corrupt practices. At the head of a band of country boys (*rūstā'ī bačča*), 'Abd-al-Razzāq ran the region of Bāštīn, pillaging the caravans and attempting surprise attacks against the fortresses. In September, 1337, he succeeded in taking Sabzavār; and in November he marched on Faryūmad, which he pillaged. Directed more against the Faryūmadī family than against Mongol control, the Sarbadār uprising gained strength thanks to the absence of a part of the tribal contingents which had left Khorasan to conquer Azarbaijan. The movement was soon dealt a blow by the rural landowners, whose political aspirations and organizational



capacities were represented by another brother of ‘Abd-al-Razzāq, Vajīh-al-dīn Mas‘ūd. An adventurer without scope, ‘Abd-al-Razzāq had no other plan than to “battle tyrants” and to profit from his power in order to go on a spree. The scandal of his morals gave reason to get rid of him. In May/June or July, 1338, he was assassinated by Vajīh-al-dīn Mas‘ūd. As a type of exalted *pahlavān*, thirsty for physical and sexual prowess and deprived of political conscience, ‘Abd-al-Razzāq belonged to a long series of mediocrities who were soon engulfed by the social movement which they helped to initiate.

See also: [SARBADĀRS](#).

Bibliography : The majority of sources are late and tendentious, including the works of Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, Dawlatšāh, and Mirkvānd; the exception is Faryūmadī’s *Dayl-e majma‘ al-ansāb*. The latter was used in I. P. Petrushevskii, *Zemledelie i agrarnye otnosheniya v Irane XIII-XIV vekov*, Moscow-Leningrad, 1960; on ‘Abd-al-Razzāq, see pp. 433-37; Pers. tr., *Kešavarzī va monāsebāt-e arzī dar Īrān-e ‘ahd-e moğol (qarnhā-ye 13 va 14 milādī)*, 2 vols., Tehran, 1344 Š./1965. A chronology of Sarbadarid power has been attempted in John Masson Smith, Jr., *The History of the Sarbadar Dynasty, 1336-1381 A.D., and its Sources*, The Hague and Paris, 1970; on ‘Abd-al-Razzāq, see pp. 103-09.