



ABDĀL BEG

ABDĀL BEG DEDE DU'L-QADAR or ṬĀLEŠ (other forms of his name in Safavid sources are DEDE BEG QŪRČĪBĀŠĪ, ABDĀL 'ALĪ BEG, 'ABDĀL BEG), one of the seven trusted Qezelbāš amirs (*ahl-e ektešāš*) who, after the death of Solṭān 'Alī (898/1493), accompanied the latter's young brother and designated master of the Safavid order, Esmā'īl, to Lāhījān, where he found refuge from the persecution of the Āq Qoyonlū rulers. Abdāl Beg participated in the thirteen year old Esmā'īl's rising (*korūj*) based in Lāhījān and in his battles in Šīrvān and against Alvand Āq Qoyonlū. He was present in 907/1501 when Esmā'īl I ascended the throne in Tabrīz and thus established the Safavid dynasty.

The sources do not clearly define the positions and functions which Abdāl Beg held, nor are the exact dates of his appointment and removal known. From Esmā'īl's first government appointments in his winter quarters at Maḥmūdābād (906/1500), Abdāl Beg was the partner (*šarīk*) of Ḥosayn Beg Lala in the office of *amīr al-omarā'*. In 911/1505-06 he was given, as a *qūrčībāšī*, the task of persecuting those who had taken part in the battle (893/1488) in which Esmā'īl's father, Shaikh Ḥaydar, had been killed; so it is probable that Abdāl had taken part in the religious conflicts of that period. In 915/1509 the rank of amir was taken away from him with no reason given. His troop (*laškar*) and fief territories (*olkā*), Qazvīn, Sāvoĵ Bolāġ, K̄var, and Ray, were transferred to Zaynal Beg Šāmlū. Almost at the same time Ḥosayn Beg Lala, the other loyal Qezelbāš amir, who had supported Esmā'īl since the king's childhood and had enjoyed the greatest power, lost his offices and fiefs. One may thus infer a basic change in Shah Esmā'īl's administrative policy. Esmā'īl



probably wanted to curb the power of Qezelbāš amirs, who with their clans impeded close centralization of the kingdom, in favor of Persian officials. (Yār Aḥmad Kūzānī Eşfahānī, Najm-e Tānī, became *vakīl* at this time.)

However, the Qezelbāš amirs did not fall into complete disgrace. Abdāl Beg participated in the campaign of 916/1510 against the Uzbeks in Khorasan and was appointed by Shah Esmā'īl as governor of the newly conquered city of Marv and its surrounding area. In 918/1513, however, when Najm-e Tānī was campaigning against the Uzbeks in Transoxania, Abdāl Beg surrendered Marv without any resistance and fled. Shah Esmā'īl, arriving in Khorasan, punished him for his cowardice. Dressed in women's clothes and ridden through camp on a donkey, Abdāl was given over to the mockery of the troops. Shah Esmā'īl is supposed to have forgiven him eventually. Abdāl Beg is not mentioned again in the sources, and the date of his death is unknown.

See also [ESMĀ'ĪL I ŞAFAWĪ](#).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Yaḥyā 'Abd-al-Laṭīf Qazvīnī, *Lobb al-tawārīk*, Tehran, 1314 Š./1935.

A. Montazer Şāḥeb, ed., *Ālamārā-ye Šāh Esmā'īl*, Tehran, 1349 Š./1970, pp. 33, 170, 303.

Helmut Braun, *Aḥvāl-e Šāh Esmā'īl, eine unerschlossene Darstellung des Lebens des ersten Safawidenschahs*, unpublished dissertation, Göttingen, 1947.

E. Denison Ross, "The Early Years of Shah Ismā'īl, Founder of the Şafavī Dynasty," *JRAS* 1896, pp. 249-340.

R. M. Savory, "The Principal Officers of the Şafawid State during the Reign of Ismā'īl I (907-30/1501-24)," *BSOAS* 23, 1960, pp. 91-105.

Raḥīmzāda Şafavī, *Şarḥ-e jaṅghā va tārīk-e zendagānī-ye Šāh Esmā'īl Şafavī*, ed. Yūsuf Pūr-e Şafavī, Tehran, 1341 Š./1962, pp. 149, 153, 173, 191.