



'ABDALLĀH B. EBRĀHĪM

'**ABDALLĀH B. EBRĀHĪM**, called Mīrzā Solṭān 'Abdallāh Šīrāzī, grandson of Tīmūr's son Šāhroḡ, born 27 Raġab 836/19 March 1433 in Shiraz of Mehr Solṭān Ḳātūn, daughter of Alūčehra. By Šāhroḡ's command he succeeded his father in the government of Fārs at the latter's death (4 Šavvāl 838/3 May 1435) under the regency of Shaikh Moḡebb-al-dīn Abu'l-Ḳayr. The latter kept him short of money and influence and was twice removed from office after complaints of the amirs of Shiraz, but reappointed (845/1441-42 and 850/1446, *Maṭla' al-sa'dayn* II, pp. 756-59).

'Abdallāh's cousin, Solṭān Moḡammad, tried to incorporate the province of Fārs into his dominion and besieged Shiraz in Ramaḡān 850/November-December 1446, but withdrew before the approach of Šāhroḡ's army (Ja'far, cited by Barthold, tr. Hinz, *ZDMG* 90, p. 394). But after Šāhroḡ's death (12 March 1447) he succeeded in defeating 'Abdallāh's army (851/1447). 'Abdallāh, who fled to Eṣṭaḡr, was left free to choose his place of exile; taking advantage of a favor promised by Uluḡ Beg (in the days of his cordial and congenial relations with Ebrāhīm Solṭān), 'Abdallāh went to Herat. Perhaps he had been promised the government of Khorasan (*Maṭla' al-sa'dayn* II, pp. 898f.; Ḥasan Rūmlū, p. 267), but in the struggles of the Timurid princes for supremacy such a claim was not to be asserted. On the approach of Uluḡ Beg to Herat in 1448 to defend his succession to his father against other pretenders, 'Abdallāh crossed over to him during battle at the Tarnāb. Uluḡ Beg sent him and his own son 'Abd-al-Laṭīf as his representatives to Beṣṭām and Astarābād, but 'Abdallāh rejoined him before his return to Transoxania and did not enter 'Abd-al-Laṭīf's



plot against him. Though captured by ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf in the skirmishes between the armies of father and son in 1449, he was immediately set free. We do not know how he gained the confidence of influential court circles in Samarqand; but shortly after the murder of the parricide ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf himself (9 May 1450), the amirs elected ‘Abdallāh as successor. His main support seems (according to the list in *Mo‘ezz al-ansāb*, fol. 143a) to have come from traditional Turkish and Mongol chiefs in Samarqand, to whom the surviving grandsons of Šāhroḡ in Herat and Iran may have appeared too distant to be pretenders to the throne, but also from the *šayḡ-al-eslām* Borhān-al-dīn b. ‘Ešām-al-dīn (d. 1472), who left Samarqand before the accession of ‘Abdallāh’s successor, Abū Sa‘īd.

According to his coinage, ‘Abdallāh claimed central power as khan of the traditional Chaghatay dominions; but he was apparently not recognized outside Transoxania, and some sources mention ‘Alā’-al-dawla, Abu’l-Qāsem Bābor, or even Abū Sa‘īd, with more respect. The most serious opposition rose with the new pretender Abū Sa‘īd, who was immediately set free from imprisonment in Bokhara after the murder of ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf, and behind whom stood a party of opponents against the liberal and enlightened court of Ebrāhīm Solṭān and Uluḡ Beg. Only once, in 854/1450, was ‘Abdallāh able to defend himself against troops of Abū Sa‘īd, but when these occupied Yasī (Turkestan), his army withdrew for fear of a pretended incursion of Uzbegs. When the Uzbek Khan Abu’l-Ḳayr joined Abū Sa‘īd the following year, they easily defeated ‘Abdallāh’s army and put him to death near Samarqand on 22 Jomādā I 855/22 June 1451.

There seem to be no traces left of ‘Abdallāh’s rule in Transoxania. Barthold has suggested that it was he who erected the tombstone to Uluḡ Beg in the Gūr-e Mīr with an accusation of the parricide, but this monument may pertain to Abū Sa‘īd’s reign (Barthold, *Four Studies* II, p. 163). There exists a short description of his court in Shiraz (Dawlatšāh, p. 350, *Bābornāma*, fol. 10a). He apparently had no offspring from his two marriages with daughters of Uluḡ Beg and Amir Ḳodāy-qolī.



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