



ABŪ SA'ĪD KHAN

ABŪ SA'ĪD KHAN B. KUČKUNČI, cousin of Šaybānī Khan and great-grandson of Uluğ Beg in the female line, khan of the Uzbeks of Transoxania (936-40/1530-33). He became the heir-apparent to his father only shortly before the death of the latter, after the death of two senior Shaibanid sultans, first Soyunč K̲vāja b. Abi'l-Ḳayr and later Jānībeg b. K̲vāja Moḥammad. After the conquest of Transoxania by the Uzbeks he participated in various military campaigns: in the Dašt-e Qipčāq against the Qazaqs in 922-23/1516-17 (Wāṣefī, *Badā'e' al-waqā'e'*, ed. A. N. Boldyrev, Moscow, 1961, I, p. 422), against the Qizilbāš army under Najm-e Tānī near Gezdoṽān in 918/1512 (V. V. Bartol'd, *Sochineniya* VIII, Moscow, 1973, p. 141), in Khorasan in 930/1524 and 935/1528 (Ḥasan Rūmlū, I, pp. 186, 215; II, pp. 91, 103).

Abū Sa'īd ascended the throne in 936/1530. His father Kučkuṅči died, according to the *Maǰma' al-ġarā'eb* of Solṭān Moḥammad Balkī, on 25 Rabī' II/27 December 1529; and Abū Sa'īd was proclaimed, according to *Tārīḳ-e Rāqemī*, on 1 Jomādā I/1 January 1530 (see E. A. Davidovich in *Epigrafika vostoka* 7, 1953, p. 32, n. 1). According to Moḥammad Ḥaydar, during his reign and that of Kučkuṅči Khan it was his younger cousin 'Obaydallāh Khan who "in reality, conducted entirely the affairs of the state" (*Tārīḳ-e Rašīdī*, tr. E. D. Ross, London, 1895, p. 283). It seems, however, that Abū Sa'īd was not as obedient to his cousin as Moḥammad Ḥaydar claims: Already in 936/1530, when 'Obaydallāh, who was then in Herat, called other Uzbek rulers for help against the approaching Shah Ṭahmāsp I, Abū Sa'īd refused to come to fight the Qizilbāš (Ḥasan Rūmlū, I, p. 225; II, p. 107). After that the Uzbeks withdrew



from Khorasan for two years, but in late 938/mid-1532 they invaded the province once more under 'Obaydallāh Khan, and silver coins with the name of Abū Sa'īd were struck in Mašhad, Sabzavār, and Torbat. Abū Sa'īd himself did not participate in this campaign, and, when 'Obaydallāh besieged Herat, Abū Sa'īd only sent his *ataliq* to persuade the inhabitants of the city to sign a peace treaty (Ḥasan Rūmlū, I, p. 243; II, p. 111; in Seddon's translation the word *ataliq* has been erroneously translated as the title of Abū Sa'īd himself). Abū Sa'īd died in Šafar, 940/July-August, 1533; he was buried in the *madrasa* Čehel Doḡtarān in Samarqand, where his tomb, with an inscription, can still be seen (see V. Vyatkin in *Spravochnaya knizhka Samarkandskoï oblasti* VI, Samarqand, 1899, p. 231, n.; E. A. Davidovich in *Epigrafika vostoka* 7, 1953, p. 34, n. 2). Vambery surmised that he was "secretly got rid of" by 'Obaydallāh Khan, but does not give any evidence to support this allegation (*History of Bokhara*, London, 1873, p. 281).

Abū Sa'īd apparently was less cultured than Šaybānī Khan and 'Obaydallāh Khan (on these two rulers cf. A. A. Semenov in *Sovetskoe vostokovedenie* 3, 1956): Wāšefī says that the khan did not know Persian at all (op. cit., I, pp. 90-91). A chronogram on his death was compiled calling him tyrant (*agar porsand wafāt-e k̄ān-e zālem, be-gū tāriḡ-e ū zolm az mīān raft*; see Abu'l-Ġāzī, II, p. 225, n. 1).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Besides the sources cited above see Maḥmūd b. Walī, *Baḥr al-asrār*, MS of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent, no. 1375, fol. 131b.

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