



## ABU'L-FATH KHAN ZAND

**ABU'L-FATH KHAN ZAND**, eldest son of Karīm Khan (Wakīl) of the Īnāq lineage of the Zand, b. 1169/1755-56. His mother was a sister of Esmā'īl Solṭān Kord-e Qūčānī. In the dispute over the succession following the death of Karīm Khan (13 Šafar 1193/2 March 1779), one party backed Abu'l-Fath Khan; the other supported the third son, Moḥammad 'Alī Khan (b. 1174/1760-61); the second son had predeceased his father. As a compromise, both princes were installed as joint rulers. Zakī Khan of the Būdāq lineage, who had originally opposed Abu'l-Fath, took over the state administration. Meanwhile, Karīm's brother, Šādeq Khan, who had been in Bašra when the sovereign died, asserted a claim to the throne. When he appeared before Shiraz, Zakī Khan had Abu'l-Fath imprisoned, suspecting that he sympathized with Šādeq, and made Moḥammad 'Alī Khan sole ruler. Another pretender appeared in the person of Zakī Khan's own nephew, 'Alī Morād Khan. After Zakī Khan's assassination by one of his own people, Abu'l-Fath was installed in Shiraz in 4 Jomādā II 1193/19 June 1779. He was obliged, however, to leave the conduct of state affairs to Šādeq Khan. Abu'l-Fath's reign lasted little more than two months; he was incompetent and, according to the eyewitness account of Mīrzā Moḥammad, passed his time in debauchery. Šādeq Khan, with the cooperation of some of the nobles, deposed Abu'l-Fath on 9 Ša'bān 1193/22 August 1779 and had him blinded. (Another version, less probable but attested in most sources, says that he was blinded when 'Alī Morād Khan took Shiraz in 1195/1781; see Malcolm, *History* II, p. 99). In 1206/1791-92, Abu'l-Fath was sent away to Māzandarān by Āqā Moḥammad Shah; some time prior to his accession, Abu'l-Fath had married a sister of Hedāyatallāh Khan Gīlānī, the



governor of Rašt. Abu'l-Fatĥ died aged thirty-two in 1201/1787 and was buried in the Šāh Čerāġ shrine at Shiraz.

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