



## AKBAR KHAN ZAND

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**AKBAR KHAN ZAND** (d. 1196/1782), youngest son of Zakī Khan Zand. Cruel and ambitious, Akbar never rose to primacy, but he played an active and violent role in the internecine power struggle that followed the death of Karīm Khan Zand in 1193/1779. Zakī Khan, who first seized power, left Akbar in charge of Šīrāz while he advanced against the rebellious ‘Alī Morād Khan Zand. Zakī was killed on the way, and his protégé Faṭḥ-‘Alī Khan (son of Karīm Khan) returned to Šīrāz as ruler and placed Akbar under arrest. During the subsequent rule of Šādeq Khan Zand, Akbar escaped and joined ‘Alī-Morād Khan, who in summer 1195/1781 laid siege to Šīrāz. On 18 Rabī‘ I 1196/2 March 1782, Akbar Khan gained control of the Bāḡ-e Šāh Gate and led his men in to capture the city. Šādeq Khan and his family took refuge in the citadel (*arg*), but two days later Akbar lured them out under promise of safe conduct, and on ‘Alī-Morād Khan’s orders blinded Šādeq (whom he later killed) and his sons (except for Ja‘far, who had earlier made terms) and the surviving sons of Karīm Khan, Abu’l-Faṭḥ and Moḥammad-‘Alī (according to other accounts, e.g., Kalāntar, *Rūz-nāma*, p. 81, and Malcolm, II, p. 162, these last had already been blinded by Šādeq). ‘Alī-Morād, however, soon became suspicious of his able lieutenant’s ambitions, and encouraged Ja‘far Khan to avenge his father and brothers by blinding and killing Akbar Khan. Akbar’s son Rostam Khan and a few other Zands continued to resist the Qajars into the reign of Faṭḥ-‘Alī Shah; in 1212/1797-98 they seized Isfahan, but soon after were captured, blinded and imprisoned (Rezā-qolī Khan Hedāyat, *Rawżat al-šafā’* IX, pp. 331, 352).



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