



AḲESTĀN

AḲESTĀN, Jalal-al-dīn Abu'l-Moẓaffar b. Manūčehr b. Farīdūn, also called **Ḳāqān-e Kabīr**. one of the rulers of the Šervānšāh dynasty and the patron of the poet **Ḳāqāni Šervānī**. The variant **Aḳetsān** found in some manuscripts and printed works is erroneous (see Qazvīnī, *Yāddāsthā* V, p. 216). Nothing is known about the beginning or end of his reign. He must have been in power in 584/1188, when Neẓāmi dedicated his *Laylā va Majnūn* to him, but he had already passed away in the period between the years 590-97/1193-1200 when Neẓāmi wrote the *Šaraf-nāma* (ed. W. Dastgerdī, Tehran, 1316 Š./1937, p. 335; Forūzānfar, *Soḳan va soḳanvarān*, 2nd ed., Tehran, 1350 Š./1971, p. 632).

Aḳestān was panegyricized by **Ḳāqāni** in twelve qaṣidas and seven tarkīb-bands, for which he provided the poet with substantial rewards; he also sentenced him to spend time in prison (*Dīvān-e Ḳāqāni*, ed. Ž. Sajjādī, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959, introd., p. xxxvii). The exact meaning of Aḳestān is not clear. According to Minorsky the king referred to himself as Aqsartān b. Manūcehr in an inscription of 583/1187 ("Khāqāni and Andronicus Comnenus," in Minorsky, *Iranica*, London, 1964, p. 130). However, no other use of this name has been found in the Islamic world. Hadī Hasan considers Aḳestān a Georgian name without establishing either its meaning or etymology (Qazvīnī, *Yāddāsthā* V, p. 217). In *Histoire de la Georgie depuis l'antiquité jusqu'au XIXe siècle* (St. Petersburg, 1849) and *Deux historiens arméniens* (St. Petersburg, 1870-71), M. F. Brosset uses the form Aksartān.



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