



'ALĀ'-AL-DAWLA ḤASAN B. ROSTAM

'ALĀ'-AL-DAWLA ḤASAN B. ROSTAM B. 'ALĪ B. ŠAHRIĀR, ŠARAF-AL-MOLŪK, Bavandid ruler of Māzandarān. According to the account of Ebn Esfandiār, he reigned from 558/1163 to 566/1171. For chronological reasons, it seems more likely that the date given by Ebn al-Aṭīr for his accession, 560/1165, is correct and that his reign lasted until 568 or 569/1173. He was the second son of Šāh-Ġāzī Rostam, under whom the second branch of the Bavandid dynasty reached the peak of its power. Shortly after his father's accession in 533/1139, he fell into disgrace as he fled to Ray before an invading Khorasanian army; after his return, he was imprisoned for twenty months. Although his elder brother Gerdbāzū, the heir apparent and favorite of his father, was killed a few years later by Isma'ili assassins, 'Alā'-al-dawla was apparently never appointed successor to the throne. In 550/1155-56 he distinguished himself in defeating a Khorasanian army that was invading Ṭabarestān under Mo'ayyed Ayaba, but a few years later he suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Ostandār Kaykā'ūs of Rūyān; for a year he was again out of grace with his father and stripped of all his estates. During this time he and Kaykā'ūs established friendly relations, which continued throughout his own reign. After Šāh-Ġāzī's death the chiefs of Ṭabarestān raised him to the throne. At his order the brother and some intimates of his father were killed. He dismissed the army's foot soldiers, mostly Ġilānīs, and built up a strong corps of Turkish and Persian horsemen. Ītāq, a former amir of the Saljuq Sanjar, who with Šāh-Ġāzī's support had been ruling in Gorgān, immediately revolted against him and



allied himself with Ayaba, ruler of Nīšāpūr. In 561/1165-66 Īnānġ Sonqor, driven out of Ray by Atabeg Eldigüz and Sultan Arslān b. Toġrel, found refuge in Ṭabarestān. ‘Alā’-al-dawla married his daughter and later aided him with troops in the reconquest of Ray. In 564/1169, however, Īnānġ was murdered and Eldigüz, reoccupying Ray, demanded the cession of Lāreġān from ‘Alā’-al-dawla who had just reasserted the Bavandid overlordship in this region. Since ‘Alā’-al-dawla refused, Eldigüz besieged the fortress of Fīrūzkūh but was unable to take it. His attempt to bring Lāreġān under his control also soon ended in failure. In 568/1172-73 the K̲vārazmšāh Solaymānšāh, expelled from K̲vārazm by his brother Tekeš, requested asylum in Ṭabarestān. ‘Alā’-al-dawla prepared a royal reception for him; but, while Solaymānšāh was still in Dehestān, Mo’ayyed Ayaba joined him and persuaded him to rely on his support. Together they invaded Ṭabarestān and ravaged Tamīša and Sārī. ‘Alā’-al-dawla eventually inflicted a defeat on the Khorasanian army in the mountains, and Ayaba quickly departed. ‘Alā’-al-dawla sent an army to work havoc in Khorasan but was murdered soon afterwards by his Turkish *golāms*. He thus became the victim of a sanguinary vindictiveness which, contrasting with his great munificence, marked his whole reign; after the Khorasanian invasion, it became unbearable and drove his own bodyguard to conspire against him.

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