



'ALĀ'-AL-DĪN 'ALĪ

'ALĀ'-AL-DĪN (or ŽĪĀ'-AL-DĪN) 'ALĪ B. ŠOJĀ'-AL-DĪN 'ALĪ, Ghurid *malek* and later sultan, reigned in Ġūr from Fīrūzkūh as the last of his family there before the extinction of the dynasty by the K̄vārazmšāhs, 599-602/1203-96 and 611-12/1214-15. As Malek ŽĪĀ'-al-dīn, and also bearing the title "the Pearl of Ġūr," he acted as governor of the Ghurid conquests in Khorasan from 596/1199-1200, during the reign of his cousins Šams-al-dīn or Ġiāt-al-dīn Moḥammad and Šehāb-al-dīn or Mo'ezz-al-dīn Moḥammad; he had in fact married the daughter of the first of these two rulers. He was, however, unable to withstand the onslaught in Khorasan of K̄vārazmšāh 'Alā'-al-dīn Moḥammad and had to relinquish Nīšāpūr to him. When Sultan Ġiāt-al-dīn Moḥammad died in 599/1203, his brother and successor in Ġazna and northwestern India, Mo'ezz-al-dīn Moḥammad, appointed ŽĪĀ'-al-dīn ruler in the Ghurid heartland (Ġūr proper, Ġarčestān and Zamīn Dāvār). He then assumed the *laqab* of 'Alā'-al-dīn. He reigned there for the rest of his cousin's lifetime, leading an expedition into Qūhestān against the local Isma'ilis. But after the supreme Ghurid sultan's death in 602/1206, he was deposed from Fīrūzkūh by Ġiāt-al-dīn Maḥmūd, son of Ġiāt-al-dīn Moḥammad, and imprisoned in one of the fortresses of Ġarčestān. After being released and then suffering a second period of incarceration under Sultan 'Alā'-al-dīn Atsīz, he was brought forth from imprisonment by the nobles of Ġūr when the latter sultan was killed in battle in 611/1214-15.

The Turkish slave commander in Ġazna, Yalduz, then set up 'Alā'-al-dīn Moḥammad as, in effect, a puppet ruler on the Ghurid throne at Fīrūzkūh; but



he was impotent to maintain his position there for more than a year against the expansionism of the Ḳvārazmšāh, and had to surrender Fīrūzkūh to ‘Alā’-al-dīn Moḥammad; he was thus the last Ghurid sultan to reign there. He spent the remainder of his life in honorable exile in Ḳvārazm, being buried eventually at the shrine of the great mystic Shaikh Abū Yazīd at Bestām.

‘Alā’-al-dīn ‘Alī seems to have acquired a reputation both as a warrior, fighting at Mo‘ezz-al-dīn Moḥammad’s side in India against the infidel, and for his piety. With his mother (known later as Maleka-ye Ḥājjī, he made the pilgrimage to the holy places, the first prince of the Ghurid dynasty to do this; and he founded in Mecca a *kānaqāh* or retreat and hospice for religious devotees. He is also mentioned as an enthusiastic supporter in Ġūr, during Ġiāṭ-al-dīn Moḥammad’s reign, of the pietistic Karrāmīya sect against the local Hanafites and Shafe‘ites; and he was the opponent of the Shafe‘ite theologian and *faqīh*, Faḳr-al-dīn Rāzī, when the latter came to Fīrūzkūh in 595/1199 (Ebn al-Aṭīr, Beirut, XII, pp. 151-52; Bosworth, “The early Islamic history of Ghur,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 6, 1961, pp. 131-32).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The only detailed sources are Ebn al-Aṭīr’s account of the last years of the Ghurids (under the year 602/1205-6, ed. Beirut, XII, p. 208ff., especially pp. 223-24); and Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt* I, pp. 340-41, 360, 369-72, 381, 382-83; tr. Raverty, II, pp. 345-46, 381, 391-96, 415, 417-19.

For general background, see Bosworth in *Camb. Hist. Iran* V, pp. 164-66.