



## ‘ALĪ-AL-DĪN ATSĪZ

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‘ALĪ-AL-DĪN ATSĪZ B. ‘ALĀ-AL-DĪN ḤOSAYN, a late and short-reigned sultan of the Ghurid dynasty in Afghanistan (607-11/1210-14). He was still a child when his father, the great ‘Alā’-al-dīn Ḥosayn Jahānsūz died in 556/1161, and the succession in the Ghurid capital Fīrūzkūh went to his cousins, Šams-al-dīn (later Ġiāt-al-dīn) Moḥammad and Šehāb-al-dīn (later Mo‘ezz-al-dīn) Moḥammad. He spent much of his life in the service of Sultan Mo‘ezz-al-dīn, and was widely recognized among the Ghurid chiefs as a candidate for the throne after that sultan’s death. Mo‘ezz-al-dīn, however, expelled him from his court in Ġazna to that of the Bāmīān branch of the Ghurids under Bahā’-al-dīn Sām b. Šams-al-dīn Moḥammad, where Atsīz’s daughter married the amir’s eldest son. But when Mo‘ezz-al-dīn died in 602/1206, his own son Ġiāt-al-dīn Maḥmūd succeeded as head of the main branch of the family. The Ghurid dynasty lost its momentum of expansion after Mo‘ezz-al-dīn’s death and fell more and more under the shadow of the rival K̄vārazmšāhs. Atsīz appealed to Shah ‘Alā’-al-dīn Moḥammad for help in establishing his claim, but only succeeded in this after the murder of Ġiāt-al-dīn Maḥmūd in 607/1210. He then reigned as a protégé of the K̄vārazmšāh for some four years, until he was killed in battle with an army sent by Yalduz, the Turkish slave ruler in Ġazna, in 611/1214. With his death, the authority of the Ghurids virtually disappeared; in the following year, the K̄vārazmšāh took over Ġazna and the Ghurid dominions. Jūzjānī emphasizes the piety of Atsīz and his patronage of the ‘*olamā*’, but apart from this, nothing is known of his personality.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt* I, pp. 379-82, tr. Raverty, I, pp. 413-17, is the only detailed source.

For the general background, see Bosworth in *Camb. Hist. Iran* V, pp. 162-66.