



'ALĪ B. IL-ARSLAN QARĪB

'ALĪ B. IL-ARSLAN QARĪB or K̲VĪŠĀVAND, ZA'ĪM-AL-ḤOJJĀB, Turkish military commander of the early Ghaznavids Maḥmūd, Moḥammad and Mas'ūd I, and a dominant figure in the disputes over the succession at Maḥmūd's death in 421/1030. Under Sultan Maḥmūd, 'Alī had been commander-in-chief (*ḥāḡeb-e bozorg*, *al-ḥāḡeb al-kabīr*) of the army; the designation *qarīb/k̲vīšāvand* "kinsman" may denote actual physical relationship to the sultan, foster-relationship, or perhaps a highly-honored status, as conveyed for example, by such a term as *'amm* "uncle." 'Alī, together with the vizier Abū 'Alī Ḥasan b. Moḥammad (called Ḥasanak, q.v.), was a strong supporter of the succession claims of Maḥmūd's younger son Moḥammad; both of them no doubt hoped that they would be the real power behind the throne. 'Alī rallied the Ghaznavid troops in the capital to Moḥammad's side, whilst Mas'ūd was far away in western Persia; according to the sources, 'Alī became a "universal influence" (*nā'eb-e koll*), controlling every civil official from the vizier downwards. However, he became estranged from Ḥasanak and resolved, as Mas'ūd marched eastwards, to betray Moḥammad and to go over to Mas'ūd's side. Moḥammad marched out from Ġazna to confront Mas'ūd's army, then at Herat. When Moḥammad reached Tegīnābād in Zamīn-Dāvar, 'Alī sent his brother Il-direk to offer allegiance to Mas'ūd on behalf of himself and Moḥammad's uncle Yūsuf b. Sebūktigin. Moḥammad's forces melted away; he was seized, deposed, and imprisoned, while his brother assumed power (422/1031). 'Alī attempted to ingratiate himself with the new sultan, but Mas'ūd, rightly fearing that the habits of treachery and king-making—'Alī had openly boasted of himself as *amīr-nešān*—might well re-assert themselves,



arrested ‘Alī and others of his entourage. He was imprisoned and presumably died in jail; in 432/1040-41 his son was active in the deposition of Mas‘ūd and the transient restoration of Moḥammad.

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