



'ALĪ KHAN ḤĀJEB-AL-DAWLA

'ALĪ KHAN MARĀĠĀ'Ī ḤĀJEB-AL-DAWLA, ḤĀJJĪ, Qajar official (1222-84/1807-08 to 1867). The son of Ḥosayn Khan Moqaddam Marāġā'ī, when still a child he entered as *golām-bača* into the service of the future king Moḥammad Mīrzā, son of the crown prince 'Abbās Mīrzā, when the latter was governor of Marāġā. In 1250/1834, when Moḥammad Mīrzā was named crown prince, 'Alī Khan was made his master of the wardrobe (*ṣandūqdār*); when he acceded to the throne in the same year, 'Alī Khan was appointed chief of the royal household (*kṵānsālār*). There he had close connections with Moḥammad Shah's mother and with one of his wives, Mahd-e 'Olyā, the mother of the future Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah. He is said to have concluded contracts of temporary marriage (*moṭ'a*) with each of them during different pilgrimages to Mecca (Bāmdād, *Rejāl* V, p. 288, and II, pp. 375-76). Disgraced in 1261/1845, he sought sanctuary in Qom, but was removed by force on the shah's order. He was saved on payment of 20,000 tomans and exiled to Transoxania. After a pilgrimage to Mecca, he returned with Moḥammad Shah's mother to Tabrīz, where they contacted Mahd-e 'Olyā. When she assumed the regency for 100 days after Moḥammad Shah's death in 1264/1848, she appointed 'Alī Khan her chief administrator (*nāẓer*) and tax collector for Gīlān.

Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah left 'Alī Khan in office; his prime minister, Mīrzā Taqī Khan Farāhānī Amīr(-e) Kabīr, appointed 'Alī Khan *farrāš-bāšī* (equivalent to court minister). After deposing Amīr Kabīr in the autumn of 1268/1851, the shah ordered his murder and 'Alī Khan volunteered to carry out the sentence. As a result, the formula "murderer of Amīr Kabīr" is added to 'Alī Khan's name



whenever he is mentioned by modern writers. After the Bābī attempt on the shah’s life in 1268/1852, ‘Alī Khan helped to arrest Ḥosayn ‘Alī Nūrī, chief of the Bahā’ī branch of Bābīs; his reward was the title Ḥāġeb-al-dawla. Since Ḥosayn ‘Alī Nūrī was a relative of Āqā Khan Nūrī, the new prime minister, the latter was at least temporarily on hostile terms with ‘Alī Khan; later they cooperated closely. As chief of the royal household ‘Alī Khan was, next to the prime minister, the most powerful official in the state. ‘Alī Khan’s close connections with the prime minister eventually turned against him. Three days after Āqā Khan Nūrī’s deposal in Moḥarram, 1275/August, 1859, ‘Alī Khan was also removed from office, on the pretext of having embezzled public funds. A year later ‘Alī Khan was pardoned on the intercession of Maḥd-e ‘Olyā and appointed governor of Kūzestān with the title Żiā’-al-molk. In 1277/1860-61 he was allowed to return to Tehran; he was reinstated as court minister (*wazīr-e darbār*) and became a member of the state council (*dār-al-šūrā-ye dawlatī*). From 1278/1861-62 to 1281/1864-65 he served as minister of justice (*wazīr-e ‘adliya*) and in 1279/1862-63 was granted the title E’temād-al-salṭana; in 1282/1865-66 he was appointed minister of pious foundations (*wazīr-e waḏāyef va awqāf*) and in 1283/1866-67 he was also made governor of the province of Hamadān. He died in Tehran on 30 Rabī’ I 1284/1 August 1867 and was buried at Qom.

Partly on the shah’s orders and partly on his own initiative, ‘Alī Khan was one of the most active builders of his time, including a number of palaces in the citadel (Arg) of Tehran (Kvābgāh, ‘Emārat-e Bādgīr, Ḥammām-e Čahār Ḥawz-e Andarūn), and at Dūšān Tapa, Salṭanatābād, Nīavarān, and on the Jāj-rūd. In Tehran he built forty police stations (*qarāvol-kāna*), a military hospital, and a number of factories. Outside of the capital he was as active as inside. His sons served in high government positions; the most famous of them was Moḥammad Ḥasan Khan E’temād-al-salṭana, author of a number of valuable source books on Qajar history.

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