



'ALĪ-MORĀD KHAN ZAND

'ALĪ-MORĀD KHAN ZAND (r. 1195-99/1781-85), fourth of the Zand rulers. After the death of 'Alī-Morād's father, Qayṭas Khan of the Hazāra clan of the Zands, his mother (a sister of Zakī Khan) married Šādeq Khan of the Bagala clan; 'Alī-Morād was thus nephew to Zakī and to Šādeq and his brother Karīm Khan the Wakīl, and half-brother to Šādeq's son Ja'far, his own successor. On the Wakīl's death in 1193/1779, 'Alī-Morād helped Zakī secure power in the name of Karīm Khan's second son, Moḥammad-'Alī. Zakī then dispatched him with his best troops in pursuit of Āgā Moḥammad Qāḡār, who had fled from Shiraz to Māzandarān. At Isfahan he rebelled in the name of Abu'l-Faṭḥ, the Wakīl's eldest son deposed by Zakī; and, on his way to quell this threat, Zakī was killed in a mutiny. When Abu'l-Faṭḥ was acclaimed by the mutineers, 'Alī-Morād returned to Tehran to campaign against the Qajars. Šādeq Khan seized this chance to march on Shiraz and take over the government; 'Alī-Morād defeated Šādeq's son, 'Alī-Naqī, secured Isfahan, and early in 1195/1781 reduced Shiraz after an eight-month siege. Šādeq and all his adult sons except Ja'far were butchered, and Abu'l-Faṭḥ was blinded (though Kalāntar, *Rūz-nāma*, p. 81, and Malcolm, *History* II, p. 162, state that Šādeq had already blinded him). 'Alī-Morād returned to rule from Isfahan, the better to confront the Qajar menace, sending Ja'far to quell a revolt in Kamsa province. In 1187/1792 the bulk of his army, under the command of his son, Shaikh Oways Khan, drove the Qajars back from Sari to Astarābād; but his pursuit force was trapped and annihilated in the Alborz defiles. Panic affected the main army, and the troops fell back on Tehran. The enraged 'Alī-Morād killed several officers who had fled and, though already ill, prepared another force. Ja'far Khan took



advantage of this setback to rebel and march on Isfahan. Against his physicians’ advice, ‘Alī-Morād hastened back in midwinter to defend his capital, but died at Moṛča-ḵvort in Rabī‘ I, 1199/February, 1785. His army dispersed, and Ja‘far Khan seized Isfahan and the government.

‘Alī-Morād was blind in one eye and is characterized as a heavy drinker. His generalship, however, was highly respected by Āgā Moḥammad Qājār. His brief reign marks the turning point of Zand fortunes; they were never again to exercise authority north of Isfahan. As part of his attempt to stem Qajar expansion, ‘Alī-Morād had offered to cede to Russia the provinces north of the Aras claimed by Iran, in return for recognition and support; but he died before negotiations could be completed (Comte L. F. Ferrières de Sauveboeuf, *Mémoires* II, Maastricht, 1790, pp. 202-03).

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