



'ALĪTIGIN

'**ALĪTIGIN**, the usual name in the sources for 'ALĪ B. ḤASAN or HĀRŪN BOĠRA KHAN, member of the Hasanid or eastern branch of the Qarakhanid family, ruler in Transoxania during the early 5th/11th century (d. 425/1034). We know about 'Alitigin almost wholly through his hostile relations with the Ghaznavid sultans Maḥmūd and Mas'ūd, who endeavored at various points to intervene in Transoxania or to support rival members of the Qarakhanid family against him. 'Alitigin had been imprisoned by his rival Maṣṣūr Arslan Khan b. 'Alī, but managed to escape. He secured the aid of the Oghuz Turkmen bands led by Arslan Esrā'īl b. Saljūq that had earlier been deflected from K̄vārazm. In 411/1020-21 he conquered Bokhara, extending his power all over Soġd; he adopted the totemistic title of Yīgan-tigin and the official designation of Arslan Ilig. With a secure base in the rich cities of Bokhara and Samarqand, 'Alitigin rapidly made himself a force in the politics of Central Asia, exciting the jealousy of his brother Yūsof Qadīr Khan of Kāšġar and Ḳotan. The latter joined the Ghaznavid Sultan Maḥmūd against 'Alitigin and his Saljuq allies; in 415/1024 Maḥmūd invaded Transoxania, and 'Alitigin had to flee from Samarqand to the steppes. A formal alliance was then concluded at Samarqand between Maḥmūd and Yūsof Qadīr Khan, with marriage unions between the two dynasties (416/1025); but 'Alitigin returned, defeated his brother, and compelled him to evacuate his possessions. It is probable that Maḥmūd was not overanxious to see 'Alitigin's power entirely destroyed or to facilitate the passing of the whole of Turkestan under Yūsof Qadīr Khan's control. Around 423/1021-22 we find 'Alitigin, with the title Tamġač Boġra Qara Ḳāqān, dominant once more in Transoxania; his coins give the honorifics



Bahā’-al-dawla, Qoṭb-al-dawla, Naṣr-al-mella, and ‘Azod-al-dīn.

Sultan Mas‘ūd continued his father’s policy of hostility towards ‘Alītigin, even though he had been prepared to seek the latter’s help in order to secure the throne in Ġazna in 421/1030. Mas‘ūd now embarked on a plan to wrest Transoxania from ‘Alītigin and to give it to Yūsuf Qadīr Khan’s second son, Mas‘ūd’s brother-in-law, Moḥammad Boġra Khan. The sultan’s trusty commander, the K̲v̲ārazmšāh Altuntaš (Āltūntāš), accordingly invaded Transoxania from K̲v̲ārazm in 433/1032; an indecisive battle took place at Dabūsīya outside Bokhara between the Ghaznavid forces and ‘Alītigin and his Saljuq allies. Although Altuntaš was mortally wounded, his forces were able to execute a successful withdrawal, and peace was made. However, Altuntaš’s de facto successor in K̲v̲ārazm, his son Hārūn, showed signs of rebelliousness against Mas‘ūd and in 435/1034 allied with ‘Alītigin; plans were made for a joint attack on northern Khorasan, but ‘Alītigin died. His sons endeavored to maintain their father’s position in Transoxania, but within a few years had to cede power there to the rising figure of Bōritigin from the rival ‘Alid branch of the Qarakhanid family, the later Tamġač Khan Ebrāhīm (ca. 444/1052-460/1068).

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