



'ANNAZIDS

'ANNAZIDS (BANŪ 'ANNĀZ), a Kurdish dynasty (r. ca. 380-510/990-1117) whose territory on the Iran-Iraq frontier included Kermānšāh, Ḥolwān, Dīnavar (now in western Iran), Šahrazūr, Daqūqā (Daqūq), Daskara, Bandanījīn (Mandelī), and No'māniya (now in northeast Iraq). According to Ebn al-Aṭīr, the name 'Annāz is derived from 'anz (she-goat) and signifies the owner, merchant, or shepherd of goats. Mostawfī and Šaraf Khan give the name as Banū 'Ayyār; this reading is preferred by contemporary Kurdish historians on the grounds that the Arabic word 'ayyār (lit.: "shrewd, smart") is common in both Persian and Kurdish and was formerly used as a nickname among Kurdish families, while 'anz and 'annāz are not mentioned in Kurdish dictionaries.

The founder of the dynasty was Abu'l-Faṭḥ Moḥammad b. 'Annāz (d. 401/1010-11), who ruled in Ḥolwān and was probably attached to the administration of the Buyid Bahā'-al-dawla (r. 379-403/989-1012). Political conflicts during his twenty-year rule led to clashes in the west with the Banū 'Oqayl (from whom he temporarily seized Daqūqā in 388/998) and the Banū Mazyad, as well as a campaign against Zahmān b. Hendī, lord of Kāneqīn, whose family he destroyed in 389/999. In the east, there was fierce competition between him and the Hasanuid Kurds, his relatives through marriage; in 397/1006 Badr b. Ḥasanūya, aided by Abu'l-Ḥasan 'Alī b. Mazyad, sent an army of 10,000 men against Abu'l-Faṭḥ, who was compelled to seek refuge with the Buyid vizier, 'Amīd-al-joyūš Abū 'Alī Ḥasan b. Abī Ja'far in Baghdad. In a treaty concluded that year between the two Kurdish dynasties, Abu'l-Faṭḥ declared



himself a Hasanuid vassal.

Abu'l-Fatḥ was succeeded by his son, Ḥosām-al-dawla Abu'l-Šawk, whose thirty-six-year rule (until Ramażān, 437/March-April, 1046) was filled with internecine strife as well as external conflict. As a result, the extent of his authority fluctuated a great deal, sometimes reaching as far as Ḥella and at other times contracting to a narrow region in western Iran. He inaugurated his reign by checking an attack by the forces of the new Buyid vizier, Faḡr-al-molk, but he was compelled to retreat to Ḥolwān until a reconciliation was achieved. Through mediation and marriage alliance, relations improved between Abu'l-Šawk and the Banū Mazyad, who had been concerned about 'Annazid intentions in the west. Following the assassination of Badr b. Ḥasanūya (445/1041-42), the tribes of Lor and Šādanjān fell under Abu'l-Šawk's control. The Buyids of Hamadān reacted by releasing the grandson of Badr b. Ḥasanūya, Ṭāher b. Helāl, whom they had captured in battle. He marched against Abu'l-Šawk, who was forced to retreat to Ḥolwān; by this time Abu'l-Ḥasan b. Mazyad had come to the aid of Abu'l-Šawk, but further warfare was averted when Ṭāher b. Helāl settled in Nahrawān and made peace with Abu'l-Šawk by marrying into his family. In fact, this was only a maneuver on the part of Abu'l-Šawk, who seized the opportunity to attack Ṭāher, kill him, and capture the whole region belonging to the Hasanuids.

With this increased power, the forces of Abu'l-Šawk were able to defeat Šams-al-dawla and to stop the Ġozz Turks after they seized Hamadān and attacked Dīnavar and Asadābād (420/1029). In the following year, Abu'l-Šawk defeated the 'Oqayl and took Daqūqā; in 430/1038-39 he seized Kermānšāh (Qarmīsīn) and captured its ruler, a Quhid (Hasanuid) Kurd. He then led his followers against the Quhid strongholds of Arnaba and Kūlanjān. During this period, Abu'l-Šawk also consolidated his power within the 'Annazid line. His two brothers, Mohalhel and Sorḡāb, had maintained autonomous rule in Šahrazūr and Bandanījīn since the death of their father. In 431/1040, Abu'l-Fatḥ b. Abu'l-Šawk tried to capture territories belonging to Mohalhel but was defeated and captured. Abu'l-Šawk was obliged to march against Mohalhel; the latter secured assistance from 'Alā'-al-dawla b. Kākūya, the ruler of Hamadān, who then seized Dīnavar, Kermānšāh, and other regions. When Sorḡāb also seized Daqūqā, Abu'l-Šawk sought the help of the Buyid Jalāl-al-dawla in Baghdad—whom he had alternately sided with (420/1020) and opposed (428/1027) in confrontations with the Buyid Abū Kālījār—and was able to return to Ḥolwān.



Relations between Abu'l-Šawk and Mohalhel improved following the intervention of Jalāl-al-dawla, but Mohalhel's refusal to release Abu'l-Fatḥ b. Abu'l-Šawk led to renewed hostilities. In 432/1046 and 434/1042 Abu'l-Šawk again attacked Mohalhel but failed to obtain the release of his son, who died in captivity. During the second campaign, Mohalhel caused great carnage in Sanda (Sanandaj?) and other regions under his brother's control. By this time, a new danger, the Ġozz Turks, menaced the two 'Annazid brothers. In 437/1045 ʤoġrel Beg sent his half-brother Ebrāhīm Yenāl westward; the Kurdish governor of Hamadān fled, and Abu'l-Šawk retreated from Dīnavar to Kermānšāh and then to the citadel of Sīrvān on the Dīāla river, where a large number of Kurds rallied around him. Mohalhel tried to unite with Abu'l-Šawk, but the 'Annazids were unable to stop the march of Yenāl's forces, which captured Ḥolwān and Māhīdašt and attacked Kāneqīn. Abu'l-Šawk died in the citadel of Sīrvān in Ramažān, 437/April, 1046, and his followers rallied around Mohalhel.

The strife between the 'Annazid chiefs continued during Mohalhel's reign, especially when Sa'dī b. Abu'l-Šawk sided with Yenāl against his uncle. The 'Annazid Hasanuid conflict broke out again when Yenāl seized Ḥolwān (438/1046) in the name of the Hasanuid Badr b. ʤāher b. Helāl. After four years of attempted reconciliation between the 'Annazids and the Ġozz, Mohalhel went in 442/1050 to meet ʤoġrel Beg, who confirmed his rule over Sīrvān, Daqūqā, Šahrazūr, and Šamaġān and released his brother Sorqāb. The Ġozz gained a new opportunity to intervene in 'Annazid affairs after Mohalhel was captured by his nephew Sa'dī, and Mohalhel's son Badr sought the help of ʤoġrel Beg. Refusing to release his captive, Sa'dī faced several Ġozz invasions and finally allied himself unsuccessfully with the Buyid al-Malek al-Raḥīm ʤosrow Fīrūz.

A declining 'Annazid rule can be traced for several generations; the last mention occurs in the second half of the 6th/12th century, when Sorqāb b. 'Annāz became one of the rulers of Lorestān. According to Ebn al-Aṭīr and the *Šaraf-nāma*, the 'Annazid era lasted 130 years. During that time, continuous strife, internal and external, prevented political stability in western Iran and northeastern Iraq, and although there were several important centers, such as Dīnavar, Šahrazūr, and Kermānšāh, on the whole economic and cultural life suffered.



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