



## ATĀBAKĀN-E LORESTĀN

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**ATĀBAKĀN-E LORESTĀN**, rulers of Lorestān, part of the Zagros highlands of southwestern Iran in the later middle ages. Lorestān had a mixed population of Lors (q.v.), Kurds, and others. There were two dynasties, the *atābaks* of Great Lorestān (*Lor-e Bozorg*) and those of Little Lorestān (*Lor-e Kūček*). Only an outline of their political history is known, and the chronological data in the scanty sources often differ considerably. Practically nothing has been reported about internal economic or religious developments in the region. Moreover the reports which have come down are not always consistent.

*Atābaks of Great Lorestān*, ruled from about 550/1155 until 827/1424, and had their seat at Īdāj (the later Mālamīr, now Īda). The dynasty bore the surname Fażlūya (Fażlawayh), and claimed to be of Syrian origin and to have settled in northern Lorestān about 500/1106. The first to distinguish himself was Abū Ṭāher b. Moḥammad, who supported the Salghurid prince Sonqor (543/1148-556/1161) on a campaign into Šabānkāra and was rewarded with the governorship of the Kūhgīlūya district, whence he extended his sway over Lorestān. He assumed the title Atābak from then onward and made himself independent of Sonqor about 550/1155.

Abū Ṭāher's son Malek Hazārasp (some of these rulers were also entitled Malek, see 'Omarī, ed. M. Ē. Quatremère, "Notice de l'ouvrage qui a pour titre Mesalek al-Absar," *Notices et extraits des Man. de la Bibl. du Roi XIII*, Paris, 1838, p. 330) succeeded in 600/1203-04 and ruled for an uncertain length of time, the end of his reign being variously given as 626/1229 and 650/1252-53. He strengthened his family's position by expelling the Šūl tribe, who migrated



to Fārs, and by warring successfully with the Salghurids. The caliph al-Nāṣer granted him (confirmed?) the title Atābak. He supported the last K̄vārazmšāh Jalāl-al-dīn Mengüberdi in his struggle against the Mongols, and gave a daughter in marriage to Jalāl-al-dīn. It is not clear whether Malek Hazārasp was followed first by two sons, ‘Emād-al-dīn in 646/1248-49 and Noṣrat-al-dīn in 649/1251-52, and only then by Takla (Tekla), his son by a Salghurid princess, or whether Takla was the immediate successor. Takla, whose reign is said to have begun in 655/1257 or 656/1258, accompanied Hülāgū (Hülegü) on the march to Baghdad, but deserted because of the killing of the last caliph and escaped to his own country; eventually he was caught and, on Hülāgū’s order, executed. His brother and successor Šams-al-dīn Alp Arġūn had the task of repairing the damage left by the Mongol sweep through the country; he spent most of his time in Lorestān, where he had two summer and two winter residences.

He was succeeded in 673/1274-75 by his son Yūsufšāh I, who was received in audience by the il-khan Abāqā and allowed to return home without trouble. He obtained a confirmation of his status and the addition of K̄zestān, Kūhgīlūya, and also Fīrūzān (near Isfahan) and Golpāyagān to his territory. Like his father, he showed concern for the country and people. He had been loyal to the il-khan during an incursion by Barāq (Borāq) Khan from Transoxiana (Mā Warā’ al-Nahr). In 681/1282 he hastened to the help of the new il-khan Aḥmad, but after the latter’s defeat he was able to mollify Arġūn, Aḥmad’s brother and successor, and thus to return home unscathed.

Yūsufšāh’s son Afrāsīāb I, who succeeded about 687/1288, sent his brother Noṣrat-al-dīn Aḥmad as a hostage to the il-khan’s court. After the death of Arġūn in 690/1291 and the murder of the Mongol governor of Isfahan (which he temporarily occupied with a force under his cousin Qızıl), he attempted to extend his authority to the Persian Gulf, at first with the consent of the Mongols, later against their strong opposition. They sent troops from several points, including Shiraz, and defeated the army of Great Lorestān at Kūhrūd near Kāšān. Afrāsīāb fled to the castle of Mānjašt and had to surrender; but the il-khan Gaykātū pardoned and reinstated him. He was left to himself until after the accession of the il-khan Ġāzān in 694/1295. On the insistent advice of his generals, Ġāzān ordered the arrest of Afrāsīāb and his execution on 28 Du’l-ḥejja 695/26 October 1296.

Afrāsīāb’s successors appreciated the lessons of the past and refrained from military adventures, while seeking to secure the internal and external peace of



their territory. His son and heir Noṣrat-al-dīn Aḥmad, who had spent a long time at the court of the il-khans (see above), allotted one third of his governmental revenue to the army (and presumably public expenses in general), one third to his family and servants, and one third to religious purposes; this attitude prompted several theologians to dedicate their works to him. After his death in 730/1329-30 or 733/1332-33, his son Rokn-al-dīn Yūsufšāh II inherited the domain and according to the reports was also a benevolent ruler. He died at Šūštar in 740/1339-40 at the age of 43 (lunar) years and was followed by his son (or brother?) Moẓaffar-al-dīn Afrāsīāb II, in whose reign relations with the il-khans ceased as the Il-khanid empire broke up. His successor was his son Nawr-al-ward (Rose Blossom), who reigned for an unspecified time and is said to have been blinded by the Mozaffarid Mobārez-al-dīn Moḥammad in 756/1355. He was followed by his cousin (or nephew?) Šams-al-dīn Pašang, who was perhaps a son of Yūsufšāh II. During his reign fighting with the Mozaffarids continued and Īḍaj fell for a time into their hands, until the Mozaffarid family's internecine strife changed the situation to Pašang's advantage. After his death in 780/1378-79 his (or Nawr-al-ward's) son Malek Pīr Aḥmad and Malek Hūšang contended for the succession. Malek Hūšang soon died, and Malek Pīr Aḥmad was ousted by the Mozaffarid Shah Maṣṣūr and replaced for a time by a notable named Malek Oways; but in 795/1393 Pīr Aḥmad was able to return, thanks to help given by Tīmūr, who also permitted the return of 200 countryfolk driven out by the Mozaffarids. In 798/1395-96, however, Pīr Aḥmad and two of his brothers were forcibly removed to Samarkand. Later Tīmūr divided the territory between him and his brother Afrāsīāb III. From 807/1405 to 811/1408-09, Pīr Aḥmad was imprisoned by Mīrzā Pīr Moḥammad, but he again recovered the kingship, only to lose his life shortly afterward in a popular uprising. His son Abū Sa'īd reigned until about 820/1417; the latter's son Shah Ḥosayn was murdered in 827/1424 by his relative Ġīāṭ-al-dīn, a grandson of Hūšang. In the same year, the Timurid Šāhroḡ expelled Ġīāṭ-al-dīn and thereby ended the rule of the *atābaks* of Great Lorestān.

*Atābaks of Little Lorestān* (580/1184?-1006/1597), ruled from Ḳorramābād. The dynasty, which stemmed from the Jangrū'ī (or Jangardī) tribe, bore the surname Ḳoršīdī (after the first ruler).

Šojā'-al-dīn Ḳoršīd b. 'Alī became an independent ruler after the death of his former suzerain Ḥosām-al-dīn in 580/1184-85 (or earlier, in 570/1174-75?) and assumed the title *Atābak*. He conducted various military operations against



tribes and obtained the district of ʿArāzak in Kūzestān from the caliph in exchange for certain castles. He divided his time between summer and winter quarters and is said to have died at the age of 100 (lunar) years in 621/1224. His nephew Sayf al-dīn Rostam then seized power by force, and proved to be a competent ruler. Rostam's successors were his brother Šaraf al-dīn Abū Bakr and then 'Ezz-al-dīn Garšāsp, who married his predecessor's widow. The next ruler, Ḥosām-al-dīn Kālīl, lost his life in a family conflict. The caliph refused to recognize his brother Badr-al-dīn Mas'ūd, who then obtained Mongol backing which enabled him to maintain his position; a share of the booty taken at Baghdad was allotted to him, but he died in 658/1260. A succession struggle between two of his sons was ended by Abāqā, acting on behalf of his father Hūlāgū, and their cousin Tāj-al-dīn Šāh b. Kālīl was installed. No information about the reign of Tāj-al-dīn has come down except that he was executed on the il-khan's order in 677/1278-79. The territory was then divided between two other sons of Badr-al-dīn Mas'ūd, the district of Delār being awarded to Falak-al-dīn Ḥasan and the royal estates (*īnǰū*) to 'Ezz-al-dīn Ḥosayn. Both led campaigns to enlarge their possessions, which eventually stretched from Hamadān to Šūštar and from Isfahan to the Arab-populated zone. In 692/1293, however, the il-khan Gaykātū deposed them both and appointed Jamāl-al-dīn Kezr, a son of Tāj-al-dīn, to succeed them. Tāj-al-dīn, was killed near Korramābād by his own troops in 693/1294, and his heir Ḥosām-al-dīn 'Omar had to cede power in the same year to Šamšām-al-dīn Maḥmūd, who was executed by Ġāzān in 695/1296 for complicity in the murder of Kezr. The succession then passed to 'Ezz-al-dīn Aḥmad Ḥosayn under the guardianship of his cousin Badr-al-dīn Mas'ūd, a son of Falak-al-dīn; the territory was divided between the two, but 'Ezz-al-dīn later gained sole control and reigned until 716/1316-17 or 720/1320. The principality then passed to his widow Dawlat Kātūn, who abdicated in favor of her brother 'Ezz-al-dīn II Maḥmūd, with whom a new line of princes began. He was confirmed in office by the il-khan Abū Sa'īd and reigned until 730/1329-30, when he was succeeded by his son Šojā'-al-dīn Moḥammad, who was killed in 750/1349-50 or perhaps not until 770/1368-69.

Šojā'-al-dīn's son 'Ezz-al-dīn III, who bore the title Malek, eased the task of asserting himself in the realm by giving one daughter in marriage to a Mozaffarid prince and another to the Jalayerid Aḥmad b. Oways; but reports, rightly or wrongly alleging that he extortionately overtaxed the Lors, gave Tīmūr a pretext to invade the territory in 788/1386, when Borūjerd was devastated and Korramābād completely destroyed. What happened to 'Ezz-al-



dīn at that time is unknown, but in the sequel he reappeared, was temporarily banished to Turkestan, was allowed after three years to return to Lorestān, and was able to escape when Tīmūr made a second incursion in 795/1392-796/1393, which again did considerable damage to the Lors; his territory was placed for the time being under the rule of the viceroy of Fārs, and he was put to death in 806/1403-04. His son Sīdī Aḥmad recovered the family's domain after Tīmūr's death in 807/1405 and reigned until 815/1412-13 or 825/1422. Sīdī Aḥmad's brother Shah Ḥosayn, who put out a claim to descent from 'Alī, gained ground in the directions of Hamadān and Isfahan through several campaigns before his death in battle in 871/1466-67 or 873/1468-69.

His son Shah Rostam and grandson Oḡūr (or Oḡūz) rallied to the Safavids, thereby provoking a chronologically uncertain series of family conflicts in which the Safavids repeatedly intervened. After the death of Shah Esmā'īl II in 985/1577, the contemporary ruler Moḥammadī acknowledged the suzerainty of the Ottoman sultan Morād III (of whose empire Mesopotamia was then a part), but later renewed his allegiance to the Safavids. His son Šāhverdī remained loyal to them, and Shah 'Abbās I (996/1588-1038/1629) married Šāhverdī's daughter, who was considered to be an 'Alid; but when Shah 'Abbās approached, Šāhverdī fled to Baghdad. He was reinstated in 1003/1594-95 but again became insubordinate and was captured and put to death in 1006/1597-98. The dynasty of the Atābaks or Maleks of Little Lorestān was thereby ended, yet the subsequent *wālīs* of Lorestān (later of Pošt-e Kūh only) also traced their descent to this dynasty.

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