



‘AẒOD-AL-MOLK, MOḤAMMAD ḤOSAYN

‘AẒOD-AL-MOLK, MĪRZĀ MOḤAMMAD ḤOSAYN (d. 1284/1867), a senior official in the first part of Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah Qājār’s reign. Both he and his father Mīrzā Fażlallāh Mollā-bāšī Qazvīnī were initially employed as clerical secretaries at the provincial government of the crown prince ‘Abbās Mīrzā in Azarbaijan (Farhād Mīrzā, *Zanbīl*, Tehran, 1329/1911, p. 162). They claimed holy descent through Mīr Sayyed Ḥosayn b. ‘Alī Karakī Jabal-‘Āmelī (M. Golrīz, *Mīnū-dar yā Bāb al-jannat-e Qazvīn*, Tehran, 1337 Š./1958. p. 327).

In 1267/1851, Mīrzā Moḥammad Ḥosayn, who then held the office of *ṣadr-e dīvān-kāna* (the chief official in charge of the state judicial administration), was appointed ambassador to Russia (Ḳormūjī, *Ḥaqā’eq al-aḳbār* II, p. 100; E’temād-al-saltāna, *Montaẓam-e nāṣerī* III, p. 210). Two years later he returned to Tehran (*Ḥaqā’eq al-aḳbār* II, p. 126), and in 1270/1854 he was honored with the title ‘*āzod-al-molk* and appointed minister of pensions and endowments (*wazā’ef wa awqāf*) in one of the earliest attempts to reform the machinery of the state (*Montaẓam-e nāṣerī* III, pp. 230, 232). Having been deputed to express condolence and felicitation to the Russian embassy after the death of Nicholas I and accession of Alexander II in 1271/1855, he escorted the *chargé d’affaires* and other staff of the embassy to an audience with the shah (*Ḥaqā’eq al-aḳbār* II, p. 153). In 1272/1856, he was sent to Mašhad on appointment as the trustee (*motawallī-bāšī*) of the shrine and endowments of the Emām Reżā (*ibid.*, p. 169; *Montaẓam-e nāṣerī* III, p. 244). It was he who, on orders from Tehran,



arranged the construction and erection of a gold door for the tomb chamber in 1276/1860 (*Montaẓam-e nāṣerī* III, p. 266). He remained at Mašhad until 1278/1862, when Mīrzā Ja‘far Khan Mošīr-al-dawla took over his office (ibid., p. 277). ‘Azod-al-molk became the trustee of the shrine for a second time in 1282/1866 after the death of the incumbent, Ĥājjī Qawām-al-molk Šīrāzī (ibid., p. 293). He himself died in 1284/1867 at Tehran. His remains were interred at Mašhad.

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