



BADĪ'-AL-ZAMĀN MĪRZĀ

BADĪ'-AL-ZAMĀN MĪRZĀ, by most accounts the last of the Chaghatay/Timurid rulers of Badaḡšān. He was either the grandson (by a daughter) of Solaymān Mīrzā (or Solaymān Shah) (*Baḡr*, f. 70b; *Selselet al-salāṭīn*, f. 167a), who was a cousin of Bābor and a direct descendant of Tīmūr (Lowick, 1965, p. 222), or the grandson (*az aḡfād-e*) (again by a daughter) of Moḡammad Ḥakīm Mīrzā (*Baḡr*, f. 69a) and died or was killed on or about 12 Šawwāl 1011/25 March 1603.

Despite the expulsion of the Timurids from Transoxania and Khorasan during the first decade of the sixteenth century, Badaḡšān remained a stronghold of Chaghatay/Timurid sentiment until the early seventeenth century, first under Solaymān Mīrzā (920/1514-997/1589), then under another grandson and often rival, Šāhroḡ Mīrzā b. Ebrāhīm (r. 983/1575-992/1584) (Lowick, 1972, p. 285). In 992/1584, the Shaybanid khan, 'Abd-Allāh (Khan) b. Eskandar took Badaḡšān and its chief city, Qondūz, from Šāhroḡ but sometime not long thereafter, the region was again in Timurid hands.

According to *Tārīḡ-erāqemī* (f. 202a), Badī'-al-Zamān Mīrzā seized Qondūz and Badaḡšān from Šāhroḡ and killed him (but according to Abu'l-Faḡl 'Allāmī, *Akbar-nāma* III, p. 423, cited by Lowick, 1972, p. 285, the latter died peacefully in 1016/1607). When the Toghay-Timurids succeeded the Shaybanids in Transoxiana and Balk during 1007-09/1599-1601, Badī'-al-Zamān Mīrzā at first accepted their sovereignty but then in 1011/1603, while the Toghay-Timurids were coping with a Safavid invasion of Balk led by Shah 'Abbās, he opened negotiations with Shah Jahāngīr (*Baḡr*, f. 69a). After the Safavid defeat and



withdrawal (and apparent inconclusive outcome of the negotiations with Jahāngīr), Badī'-al-Zamān Mīrzā was forced to confront a Toghay-Timurid army alone and was killed shortly after his fortress at Qondūz fell (*Baḥr*, f. 70b; *Tārīk-erāqemī*, f. 202a; *Selselat al-salāṭīn*, f. 167a).

There is some evidence that Badī'-al-Zamān Mīrzā was not the last Timurid and that the strength of Badakṣāni loyalty to that dynasty had not waned. According to one source, the Toghay-Timurid army leader named another Timurid, Mīrzā Moḥammad Zamān, a son of Šāhroḡ, to govern Badakṣān. He survived about one year and then was killed by a Shaybanid pretender seeking refuge after defeat at the hands of the Toghay-Timurids (*Selselat al-salāṭīn*; *Tārīk-erāqemī*, loc. cit.).

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