



BAḲTĪĀRĪ V. JA'FARQOLĪ KHAN SARDĀR(- E) AS'AD III

Ja'farqolī Khan Sardār(-e) As'ad III, the eldest son of Ḥāji 'Alīqolī Khan Sardār As'ad II, born 1296/1878-79. In 1327/1909, he accompanied his father and the army of the south in their conquest of Tehran. After Moḥammad-'Alī Shah was removed and after the convening of the extraordinary session of the Majles to run the country, Ja'farqolī Khan was appointed to the ten-member revolutionary court, in which several opponents of constitutional government were tried and condemned to death. During this time, followers of the deposed Moḥammad-'Alī Shah were fomenting rebellion and attacking the property, persons, and wives of the populace throughout Azarbaijan, especially in the districts of Ardabīl and Arasbārān. The second Majles considered the creation of a force to suppress these rebellions a necessity. The leader of this force was Yaprim Khan who was accompanied on his campaigns by Ja'farqolī Khan and the Baḳtīārī cavalry. The successful quelling of the revolts added to Ja'farqolī's popularity.

Until 1336/1917-18, Ja'farqolī was titled Sardār(-e) Bahādor; after the death of his father, he received the title Sardār As'ad. In 1338/1919-20, he was appointed governor of Kermān and a short time thereafter became governor of Khorasan. With the advent of Reżā Shah, Ja'farqolī cooperated sincerely with the new shah, and, after Teymūrtāš was removed from office and



imprisoned, his closeness to and standing with Reza Shah increased. However, at the outset of Āḍar, 1312 Š./November, 1933, when he was minister of war in the Forūḡī cabinet, Ja'farqolī was arrested by the order of Reżā Shah as he accompanied him on a tour of Māzandarān. He was arrested and several months later, on 13 Farvardīn 1313 Š./2 April 1934, word spread that Sardār As'ad had died in jail. It was rumored that he was poisoned or executed in prison; he was not more than fifty-five when he died. Mok̄ber-al-Salṭana Hedāyat writes: "Sardār As'ad was not tried, though it was said that the Bak̄tīārī had been secretly supplied with weapons. Later, in meetings with the shah I heard [him say], "Yes, they want to bring Moḥammad-Ḥasan Mīrzā; there can be no more licentiousness than this." The shah said no more, but it was clear that he was referring to Sardār As'ad. For my part, I have seen nothing but sincere devotion to the Pahlavī ruler by Sardār As'ad, and I have my doubts about how he was characterized."

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