



BĀYQARĀ B. 'OMAR ŠAYĶ

BĀYQARĀ B. 'OMAR ŠAYĶ (795/1392-93-826/1422-23?), a Timurid prince and grandson of Tīmūr. Although his age at the time of Tīmūr's death in Ša'bān, 807/February, 1405, is given as twelve years (Yazdī, II, p. 734; Faṣīḥ, I, p. 154), he was one of several grandsons of Tīmūr who were married at a great *qoriltāy* at Samarqand six months earlier (Mirkvānd [Tehran], VI, p. 477). He was the youngest son of 'Omar Šayḳ, who had predeceased Tīmūr in 793/1391. Tīmūr had then given 'Omar Šayḳ's young widow, Melkat Āgā b. Kezer Oglān, to another son, Šāhroḳ, who thus became the stepfather of Bāyqarā and his brothers Pīr Moḥammad, Rostam, and Eskandar. For this reason, Pīr Moḥammad held that the brothers were duty-bound to support Šāhroḳ in the struggle over the succession to Tīmūr (*Ḥabīb al-sīar* (Tehran) III, pp. 571f.). Nevertheless Pīr Moḥammad acted as a virtually independent ruler in 'Erāq-e 'Ajam, and Eskandar even more so in Fārs. When Pīr Moḥammad was murdered in 813/1409 (Ja'farī, p. 50), Eskandar took the opportunity to enlarge his domain and then rebelled against Šāhroḳ, proclaiming himself sultan at Isfahan in 815/1412-13. In the hope of bringing Eskandar to reason, Šāhroḳ marched into 'Erāq-e 'Ajam with Bāyqarā and Rostam in his train, and after defeating Eskandar in 817/1414-15 he redefined the administrative areas, making Bāyqarā governor of an area which comprised Hamadān, Borūjerd, Nehāvand, Korramābād, Lorestān, and Kordestān (*ibid.*, pp. 56f., 63; Faṣīḥ, I, p. 218; *Ḥabīb al-sīar* III, p. 591). Eskandar was handed over to his brother Rostam, who had him blinded. Before long, Bāyqarā was driven out of Borūjerd by the local ruler of Lorestān, Sayyedī b. Malek 'Ezz-al-Dīn. He marched to Shiraz in the hope of getting help from the governor Ebrāhīm b. Šāhroḳ, who was his



first cousin, but the latter suspected hostile intentions and challenged him in a battle which Bāyqarā won (Ja'farī, p. 64). According to another account, Eskandar had previously been transferred, at Šāhroḳ's command, to the keeping of Bāyqarā and had then persuaded Bāyqarā to rebel at Shiraz; but Rostam later got hold of Eskandar again and put him to death; Bāyqarā had no allies when he marched to Shiraz but obtained the support of the amirs formerly in Eskandar's service (Faṣīḥ, I, pp. 221f.). Šāhroḳ now led another expedition to Fārs and besieged Shiraz. With the concurrence of the city's inhabitants, Bāyqarā surrendered, and through the intercession of his first cousin and friend Bāysonqor b. Šāhroḳ (*Ḥabīb al-sīar* III, pp. 594f.), he obtained Šāhroḳ's pardon and was sent away to live at Qandahār under the surveillance of Qaydū b. Pīr Moḥammad b. Jahāngīr b. Tīmūr (Ja'farī, p. 66). This took place in Ramaẓān, 818/December, 1415.

The reports of Bāyqarā's subsequent adventures differ greatly. One historian (*ibid.*, p. 69) states that he joined Qaydū in a revolt, whereupon Šāhroḳ besieged Qaydū in a castle while Bāyqarā was sent to Samarqand. Another version (Ḥasan Rūmlū, ed. Navā'ī, p. 189; Faṣīḥ, I, p. 252) is that Bāyqarā rebelled against Qaydū, was captured by him, and then at Šāhroḳ's behest was banished to India; but, according to K'vāndamīr (III, p. 596), Qaydū was persuaded by Bāysonqor to keep Bāyqarā at Qandahār, and Šāhroḳ found him there in 820/1417 and then sent him to Samarqand, where he sank into oblivion. Dawlatšāh (ed. Browne, p. 374) states that Bāyqarā went voluntarily to Šāhroḳ's camp in 819/1416-17, that Šāhroḳ sent him to Oloḡ Beg at Samarqand, and that Oloḡ Beg caused him to be poisoned. According to Faṣīḥ (I, p. 252), however, a man thought to be Bāyqarā turned up in Khorasan in 826/1422-23 and was caught by agents of Šāhroḳ in the Bādḡīs district; after being brought to Šāhroḳ's camp and questioned about his identity, he was put to death despite uncertainty about whether he really was Šāhroḳ's nephew. A second story in Dawlatšāh (*loc. cit.*) concurs with this (see also Ḥasan Rūmlū, ed. Navā'ī, pp. 663f.).

The fog surrounding Bāyqarā's death may well have arisen because Šāhroḳ was reluctant to incur blame for it from his wife Melkat Āḡā, who had already had to mourn the loss of her sons Pīr Moḥammad and Eskandar. There are also hints of intrigue by Šāhroḳ's favorite wife Gowharšād against the sons of 'Omar Šayk (*ibid.*, pp. 664f.).

Bāyqarā is effusively described by Dawlatšāh (*loc. cit.*) as the noblest, fairest, and bravest of Tīmūr's descendants. He was the patron of the poet Borondoq



(Dawlatšāh, ed. Browne, p. 371). He had esthetic interests, which were inherited by his grandson Ḥosayn b. Manšūr b. Bāyqarā, (875-912/1470-1506), the art-loving sultan of Herat.

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