



## BEGTUZUN

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**BEGTUZUN**, Pers. Baktūzūn (*tuzun* being from the Orkhon Turkish *tōdun*, a title of high military rank in the Gök Turkish empire, see G. Clauson, *An Etymological Dictionary of Pre-Thirteenth Century Turkish*, Oxford, 1972, pp. 350-51), a Turkish slave general of the Samanids prominent in the confused struggles for power during the closing years of the Samanid amirate (end of the 4th/10th century). Already influential, in 396/996 he was, with the vizier ‘Abd-Allāh b. Moḥammad b. ‘Ozayr, a mainstay of Nūḥ II b. Maṣṣūr I b. Nūḥ I’s power in Bukhara. Then in the next year, after that amir’s death, he became supreme commander (*ḥājeb-e bozorg*) of the army in Khorasan in succession to Maḥmūd b. Sebūktigin, who had been obliged to relinquish control there in order to wrest control of Ġazna from his brother Esmā‘īl on his father’s death in 387/997. Begtuzun defeated his rival Fā‘eq Kāṣṣa in 388/998, but the two generals, feeling threatened by the new amir Maṣṣūr II b. Nūḥ II’s approaches to Maḥmūd, deposed the amir in 389/999 in favor of his brother ‘Abd-al-Malek. Maḥmūd was temporarily compelled, from military inferiority, to recognize Begtuzun’s control of Khorasan, but later in that year defeated the united forces of ‘Abd-al-Malek, Begtuzun, and other Turkish commanders, thereby acquiring control of Khorasan, while Begtuzun fell into the hands of the Qarakhanids or Ilig Khans, who marched into Bukhara from the north and overthrew Samanid power there; Begtuzun is no more heard of and presumably died at their hands.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The primary sources for these events in Khorasan and Transoxania are Abū Naşr Moḥammad ‘Otbī, *al-Ta’rīk al-yamīnī*, with commentary of Aḥmad Manīnī, Cairo, 1286/1869; Gardīzī, *Zayn al-aḳbār*; *Ebn al-Aṭīr, Kāmel*, years 387-89; with a few extra details in *Helāl b. Moḥassen Şābe’, Ta’rīk*, years 389-890 in *Margoliouth and Amedroz, Eclipse III*. These sources are utilized in *Barthold, Turkestan*<sup>3</sup>, pp. 264-68; M. Nāzīm, *The Life and Times of Sulṭān Maḥmūd of Ghazna*, Cambridge, 1931, pp. 42-45; Bosworth, *Ghaznavids*, pp. 45-46.

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