



## ČERĀĠ KHAN ZĀHEDĪ

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**ČERĀĠ KHAN ZĀHEDĪ** b. Shaikh Šarīf, a descendant of Shaikh Zāhed Gīlānī (q.v.), the celebrated *moršed* (spiritual director) of Shaikh Šafī-al-Dīn, the eponymous founder of the Safavid order (Šafawīya); hence Čerāġ Khan was also known as Pīrzāda (Haneda, p. 196, quoting the *Kolāšat al-sīar* of Moḥammad Maʿšūm Ešfahānī, pp. 109-10). His father had been the *motawallī* of the Safavid shrine in Ardabīl, but the Šayḡāvand tribe is said not to have held him in much respect (Haneda, p. 196 n. 104).

Čerāġ Khan had been a supporter of the sons of the powerful *qūrcībāšī* ʿĪsā Khan Šafawī (q.v.), but in 1042/1632-33 (thus *Rawzat al-šafā*; or 1040/1630-31, thus Kermānī) he denounced them to Shah Šafī (r. 1038-52/1629-42) and accused them of conspiring to stage a coup against the shah and to put one of their number on the throne. Shah Šafī began to put to death or blind the Safavid princes, including the sons of ʿĪsā Khan the *qūrcībāšī* and the four sons of Eʿtemād-al-Dawla, all grandsons of Shah ʿAbbās. ʿĪsā Khan himself was also put to death, and Čerāġ Khan was rewarded for his “lies” with the posts of *qūrcībāšī* and *jomlat al-molk* (vizier; Wazīrī Kermānī, pp. 286-87; Hedāyat, p. 445). Five months later, however, Čerāġ Khan himself was charged with still harboring sympathies for the sons of ʿĪsā Khan, and was executed in July 1632 (Hedāyat, p. 447; Haneda, p. 196 n. 104). This episode seems to indicate that the desire for revenge on the descendants of Shaikh Šafī on the part of the descendants of Shaikh Zāhed was still strong more than three centuries after the death of Shaikh Zāhed.



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