



ČORĀS, ŠĀH-MAḤMŪD

ČORĀS, ŠĀH-MAḤMŪD b. Mīrzā Fāzel, historian of the 17th-century Chaghatay khanate (see [chinese turkestan v](#)) in Moğūlestān and hagiographer and staunch supporter of the “Black Mountain” khojas. Čorās (Jarās in Ḥaydar Dūglāt, tr., p. 308) was the name of a Mongol tribe, attested from the mid-14th century; through the 15th and 16th centuries it played a small role in Chingizid politics and then, at the beginning of the 17th century, was restored to prominence at the court of Yarkānd, where Mīrzā Fāzel Čorās held the positions of *qošbegī* (on which see Bregel) and governor under ‘Abd-Allāh Khan b. ‘Abd-al-Raḥīm Khan.

Little is known about Šāh-Maḥmūd’s life. He was apparently born some time in the 1620s, perhaps at Āqsū, and died some time after 1107/1696. He did not follow in his father’s military and administrative footsteps and instead attached himself to K̄vāja Moḥammad Yaḥyā (K̄vāja Šādī) and later his son Moḥammad ‘Abd-Allāh (K̄vājom Pādšāh), leaders of the Black Mountain faction of the Naqšbandī suborder founded by K̄vāja Aḥmad Kāšānī (“Maḥdūm-i A’zam,” d. 949/1542-43) in Samarkand. In the “biography” provided by a later partisan and hagiographer of the “White Mountain” khojas, Mīr Ḥāl-al-Dīn Yārkandī, Šāh-Maḥmūd is portrayed as a lifelong opium addict and debauchee.

Two works by Šāh-Maḥmūd have survived, both in Persian: *Tārīk-eŠāh-Maḥmūd Čorās* and *Anīs al-ṭālebīn*:



Tārīk-e Šāh-Maḥmūd Čorās (ed. O. F. Akimushkin, *Khronika*, Moscow, 1976: text, tr., comm., and notes) was written between 1083/1672 and 1087/1676 and conceived as a continuation of Mīrzā Moḥammad Ḥaydar Dūḡlāt's *Tārīk-erašīdī*. Approximately the first half of Šāh-Maḥmūd's work is a recasting of the latter work. The second half is an original and very important source for the Chaghatayids of Moḡūlestān (Kāšḡar, Yarkānd, Āqsū, Ḳotan, Tūrfān) from the early 1530s to the late 1660s.

Anīs al-ṭālebīn (Bodleian ms., A. F. L. Beeston, *Catalogue*, no. 2494), written about 1107/1696, is a hagiography of the Black Mountain khojas. It also contains considerable information on the political events of Moḡūlestān in the late 16th and 17th centuries.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Yu. Bregel, "Ḳosh-Begi," in *EI*² V, pp. 273-74.

Mīr Ḥal-al-Dīn, *Hedāyat-nāma*, ms. (see N. D. Miklukho-Maklaī, *Opisanie tadzhikskikh i persidskikh rukopisei Instituta Narodov Azii*, vyp. 11, no. 196).

Mīrzā Moḥammad Ḥaydar Dūḡlāt, *Tārīk-erašīdī*, tr. E. Denison Ross, new ed. N. Elias (with commentary, notes, and map) as *A History of the Moghuls of Central Asia Being the Translation of Tarikh-i Rashidi of Mirza Muhammad Haidar Dughlát*, London, 1895; repr. London and New York, 1972, pp. 308-09.