



DĀNEŠMAND

DĀNEŠMAND, Amir Ġāzī Taylu Gümüš-tigin Aḥmad (or Moḥammad) Dānešmand (d. 498/1104), founder of a Turkman dynasty in northern Cappadocia toward the end of the 11th century. The name Dānešmand appears with some variations in Byzantine, European, and Syriac sources (e.g., Anna Comnena, II, p. 111; William of Tyre, *Historia Rerum in Partibus Transmarinis Gestorum*, in Houtsma, I, pp. 396-97; Fulcher of Chartres, *Gesta Francorum Iherusalem Peregrinantium* in Houtsma, III, pp. 368-69; cf. pp. 519, 550-51, 709; Albert of Aix, *Historia Hierosolymitana* in Houtsma, IV, pp. 524-26, 567, 573, 581; Michael the Syrian, pp. 173, 175, 188). Reports about the origin of Dānešmand have a legendary flavor. For example, the *Dānešmand-nāma*, an epic romance based on oral traditions, is filled with legendary material and in this respect closely resembles the epics of Abū Moslem Ḳorāsānī and Sayyed Baṭṭāl Ġāzī. The Byzantine author Nicetas Choniates (pp. 27, 29, 46) attributed an Arsacid lineage to him; according to Matthew of Edessa (p. 256) and following him the Armenian Kirakos Vartan (p. 188), he was of Armenian origin, which is not incompatible with Niketas' report. Other historians identified him as a nephew of the Saljuq sultan Malekšāh (465-85/1072-92), sent by the latter to conquer Cappadocia (Niğdeli, fols. 285-86); as a maternal uncle of Solaymān b. Qutulmiš, the first Saljuq ruler of Rūm (470-79/1077-86; Ebn Šaddād, fol. 66a); and as one of the Saljuq commanders at the battle of Malāzgerd (463/1071). In the *Dānešmand-nāma* he is said to have been, like Baṭṭāl, a native of Malatya. Osman Turan's suggestion (p. 114) that he was a Saljuq envoy to the Ghaznavid court was based on a misunderstanding of a passage in Abu'l-Faḏl Bayhaqī's *Tārīḵ-emas'ūdī* (ed. Fayyāz, p. 660) and is thus



totally erroneous.

Dānešmand was often mentioned in accounts of the First Crusade in Anatolia. He reportedly joined other Turkish amirs to harass the Crusaders as they marched across northern Anatolia; participated in the defense of Ankara, Kayseri, and Sivas; and fought alongside the Saljuq Qilij Arslan I (485-500/1092-1107) in the battle in which the Crusaders were defeated near Eskişehir. But the exploit that made him famous was the capture of Bohémond, prince of Antioch, who was en route to assist Gabriel at Malatya, under siege by Dānešmand (493/1100). When Baudouin, prince of Edessa, arrived to rescue Bohémond, Dānešmand raised the siege and took his prisoner to Niksar, but he subsequently resumed the siege of Malatya and captured it the next year. In 496/1103 he released Bohémond for ransom and made an alliance with him against the Byzantine emperor Alexius and the Saljuq Qilij Arslan. The alliance came to naught, however, with the death of Dānešmand.

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