



DARGĀHQOLĪ KHAN DU'L-QADR

DARGĀHQOLĪ KHAN DU'L-QADR, also known as Mo'taman-al-Dawla Mo'taman-al-Molk Sālār-Jang Kān-e Dawrān Nawwāb (b. Sangamnēr, Deccan, 1122/1710, d. Awrangābād, 18 Jomādā I 1180/22 October 1766; Malkāpūrī, p. 398; cf. Āzād Belgrāmī, pp. 222-23), Persian official at Hyderabad and Awrangābād, best known for his description of Delhi. He was descended from Kāndānqolī Khan Du'l-Qadr, a member of the Būrbūr line of Turkman chiefs in the region of Mašhad, who had emigrated to India in 1048/1638 (Āzād Belgrāmī, pp. 221-22; Kanbō, II, p. 246; cf. Malkāpūrī, pp. 397-98). Kāndānqolī Khan's great-grandson, also named Kāndānqolī, was Dargāhqolī's father and the first of the family to enter the service of the *nezāms* (rulers) of Hyderabad. It was he who designed and constructed the township of Neẓāmābād for Neẓām-al-Molk Āṣaf-jāh (d. 1161/1748; Āzād Belgrāmī, p. 222; Malkāpūrī, p. 397-98).

Dargāhqolī Khan became one of the foremost nobles of Persian descent at the Hyderabad court and served with distinction under four *nezāms*. He was fourteen years old when Neẓām-al-Molk bestowed on him his ancestral rank (*manṣab*) and estate (*jāgīr*); when he was twenty years old he was chosen for Neẓām-al-Molk's suite. He accompanied his master to Delhi and remained with him during the invasion by the Persian Nāder Shah and its aftermath (1151-54/1738-41; Dargāhqolī, pp. 14-20). Neẓām-al-Molk's successor, Neẓām Nāṣer-Jang (1161-64/1748-50), appointed him *kōtvāl* (commandant of the



fortress) and *fawjdār* (garrison commander) of Awrangābād, and Ṣalābat-Jang (r. 1164-75/1751-62) elevated him to governor, a position that he held until 1179/1765. During that period he rose to the rank of *haft-hazārī* (commander of 7,000), and under Neẓām 'Alī Khan (1175-1217/1762-1802) he was granted the extraordinary privilege of *māhī-marāteb* (Dargāhqolī, pp. 43-45, 48, 51; Qureshi, p. 105). He appears to have been an excellent administrator, as well as a generous patron of literature (Malkāpūrī, pp. 400-01, 403). He also built numerous monuments that still survive in Awrangābād (Malkāpūrī, p. 401-04; Āzād Belgrāmī, p. 224; Dargāhqolī, pp. 53, 64-65; Rizvi, p. 258), including his own mausoleum.

Dargāhqolī Khan's *Moraqqa'-e Dehlī* (Album of Delhi, a title given it by its first editor, Ḥ.-S. Moẓaffar Ḥosayn), also known as *Resāla-ye Sālār-Jang* and *Ābādī-e Dehlī*, is a collection of extracts from Dargāhqolī Khan's personal diary of his stay in Delhi, in which he described the city, its monuments, its poets, its *martīya-kvāns* (reciters of threnodies), and its musicians on the eve of the conquest by Nāder Shah. Dargāhqolī Khan himself composed *martīyas* (threnodies) in Urdu.

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