



DARVĪŠ AḤMAD QĀBEŽ

DARVĪŠ AḤMAD QĀBEŽ (d. 912/1507), Timurid vizier. From the position of a lowly functionary charged with the task of writing out receipts (*qabž*; hence his nickname Qābež) in the *dīvān* of the Timurid Solṭān-Ḥosayn Bāyqarā (q.v. Supplement; 873-911/1469-1506) he rose to the rank of *amīr tūmān* (commander of 10,000). In 911/1505-06 he was arrested after accusing Šāyen-al-Dīn ‘Alī, keeper of the seal (*mohrdār*) in the *dīvān*, of embezzlement. He was soon released, however, owing to the intervention of the chief amir, Moḥammad-e Walī Beg, who had Šāyen-al-Dīn arrested and replaced by Darvīš Aḥmad. After Sol ṭān-Ḥosayn’s death in 911/1506 Darvīš Aḥmad became vizier for his son Moḥaffar Ḥosayn Mīrzā, who ruled jointly with his elder brother, Badī‘-al-Zamān Mīrzā, in Herat. Darvīš Aḥmad’s short term as vizier came to an end in April 1507, when he was killed as the result of a dispute during a drinking party at the home of Amir Yūsuf ‘Alī Kūkältāš, governor of Herat. Darvīš Aḥmad, a thoroughly corrupt official, was said to have brought many families to ruin by his shameless oppression and exploitation of the population. His death caused rejoicing in the streets. Fearing that the people of Herat might attack the bier if he were accorded a public burial, the governor ordered his body buried secretly in an unmarked grave outside the city.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ġiāṭ-al-Dīn K̄vāndamīr, *Dastūr al-wozarā'*, ed. S. Nafīsī, Tehran, 1317 Š./1938, pp. 453-56.

Idem, *Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, p. 365 (read Qābež for Fāyež).