



DARVĪŠ 'ALĪ, AMĪR NEZĀM-AL-DĪN KÜKĀLTĀŠ KETĀBDĀR

DARVĪŠ 'ALĪ, AMĪR NEZĀM-AL-DĪN KÜKĀLTĀŠ KETĀBDĀR, Timurid amir under Solṭān-Ḥosayn Bāyqarā (q.v., Supplement; 873-911/1469-1506) and younger brother of 'Alī-Šīr Navā'ī (*Bābor-nāma*, fol. 173a). The brothers belonged to an Uighur family that had been affiliated for generations with Solṭān-Ḥosayn's family by ties of foster brotherhood; hence his title Kükältāš (foster brother; Bartol'd, p. 212; Ando, p. 248). During his career Darvīš 'Alī served as governor of Qom under Abu'l-Qāsem Bābor (853-91/1449-57); after Solṭān-Ḥosayn's conquest of Khorasan in 873/1469 he became state treasurer (*parvānačī*) and later governor of Balk in the domain of Solṭān-Ḥosayn's son Mīrzā Ebrāhīm Ḥosayn, as well as royal librarian (*ketābdār*; *Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, pp. 46, 189; Ando, p. 198). According to the Mughal emperor Bābor (932-37/1526-30), who did not entertain a very high opinion of him, he held these positions largely as a result of 'Alī-Šīr's influence (*Bābor-nāma*, fol. 173a). Darvīš 'Alī was married to Āfāq Bīke, a poet and sister of Ḥasan-'Alī Jalāyer, one of Solṭān-Ḥosayn's chief amirs (Faḵrī Heravī, p. 129).

Darvīš 'Alī became involved in his brother's opposition to attempts by the Persian official Majd-al-Dīn Moḥammad to institute centralizing reforms in the Timurid state, especially during the period 892-95/1487-90 (Subtelny, pp. 131 ff.). Fearing for his own position in Balk, he mobilized the amirs in a revolt against the sultan, and, making common cause with Solṭān-Ḥosayn's Timurid rival, Solṭān-Maḥmūd Mīrzā, he attempted to oust Mīrzā Ebrāhīm Ḥosayn



from Balk. Although he was pardoned after the intercession of one of 'Alī-Šīr's friends, the sultan no longer trusted him, and, when he set out on campaign against Solṭān- Maḥmūd Mīrzā, he imprisoned Darvīš 'Alī in the fortress of Balk. In 899/1494 Darvīš 'Alī made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and after he returned four years later he was again reinstated, in 904/1498, as amir of the *dīvān-e a'lā* (*Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, pp. 188-90, 198, 238; Ando, p. 209).

After 'Alī-Šīr's death in 906/1501 Darvīš 'Alī was dismissed from Timurid service and retired to the village of Fayzābād outside Balk, which he held free of tax (*Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, p. 298; 'Abd-Allāh Morvārīd, pp. 79-80). The Uzbek Moḥammad Šaybānī Khan used him as an envoy in his unsuccessful attempt to negotiate the surrender of Balk in 909/1503-04 (*Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, pp. 298-99). After the death of Moḥammad Šaybānī Khan in 916/1510 Darvīš 'Alī entered the service of Bābor, himself a member of the Timurid family, in Qondūz; he appears to have been still in Bābor's service when the latter captured Samarkand in the following year (*Bābor-nāma*, fol. 174b). It is not known when he died.

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