



DELŠĀD KĀTŪN

DELŠĀDKĀTŪN, eldest daughter of the Chobanid Demašq K̄vāja (q.v.) and Tūrsīn K̄ātūn, granddaughter of the Il-khanid sultan Aḥmad Takūdār (q.v.; Aharī, p. 184; tr., p. 83). After the fall of the Chobanids (q.v.) in 727/1327 Delšād K̄ātūn was brought under the protection of her aunt Baġdād K̄ātūn, who had become wife of the il-khan Abū Saʿīd (q.v.) after having first been married to Ḥasan-e Bozorg Jalāyer. When Delšād attained maturity she was presented to Abū Saʿīd, who married her in 733/1333 and became so devoted to her that Baġdād K̄ātūn regretted her action (Šabānkāraʿī, p. 295; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, ms., fol. 527b). Abū Saʿīd died without an heir in 736/1335, and a remote cousin, Arpā Khan, was chosen as his successor by the vizier, Ġiāṭ-al-Dīn Moḥammad (q.v.). Delšād K̄ātūn, who was pregnant, fled with her cousin ‘Alī Ja‘far, grandson of Īrenjīn (Īrenčīn), to ‘Alī Pādšāh, the Oirat amir of Dīārbakr (q.v.) and uncle of Abū Saʿīd; seven months later, on 6 Šawwāl 736/18 May 1336, she gave birth to a daughter (Mostawfī, pp. 91, 94, 98). Shortly afterward ‘Alī Pādšāh was defeated and killed by Ḥasan-e Bozorg, a rival claimant to the throne, who then married Delšād K̄ātūn; in her new position she brought about the death of Mešr K̄vāja, who had killed her father (Aharī, p. 162; tr., p. 63).

Although married to Ḥasan-e Bozorg, she remained to some extent a partisan of her Chobanid kinsmen, some of whom found temporary asylum in Baghdad (Mostawfī, 1371 Š./1993, p. 27; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, 1350 Š./1971, p. 219). When, in the summer of 748/1347, her cousin Malek Ašraf led an expedition against the capital, she reportedly persuaded Ḥasan-e Bozorg, who wanted to flee to the fortress of Komāk on the Euphrates, to stay and defend the city (for a different



version, see Faṣīḥ, p. 74). When the Chobanid army withdrew Delšād prevented the Jalāyerids from pursuit and even welcomed some of Malek Ašraf's associates (Mostawfī, 1371 Š./1993, pp. 42-44; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, pp. 226-67). According to Ṣalāḥ-al-Dīn Kālīl Ṣafadī (p. 24), she was poisoned by her husband, who suspected her sympathies with Malek Ašraf. Ṣafadī also reported that she enjoyed undisputed power over Jalāyerid Iraq, as well as considerable influence in Syria, and that after her death, on 8 Du'l-qa'da 752/27 December 1351, Ḥasan-e Bozorg seized her agents and associates. Delšād Kātūn was said to have been charitable to the poor. She was buried at Najaf (Ṣafadī, p. 24).

Delšād Kātūn bore three sons to Ḥasan-e Bozorg: Oways, who succeeded his father in 757/1356; Qāsem, who died in 769/1367-68 and was buried in Najaf; and Zāhed, who was born on 9 Jomādā II 752/3 August 1351, shortly before his mother's death, and died in 773/1371-72. Various daughters are mentioned only fleetingly in the sources (Naṭanzī, pp. 163, 165; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, pp. 242, 244; Samarqandī, pp. 251-52).

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