



DEMAŠQ K̲VĀJA

DEMAŠQ K̲VĀJA, third son of the amir Čobān (q.v.), possibly born in 699/1300, when his father was on campaign in Damascus. He was married and remained devoted to Tūrsīn (or Tursān) K̲ātūn, despite the opposition of her father, Īrenjīn (Īrenčīn; Waṣṣāf, pp. 639-40; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, ms., fol. 506b). She bore him four daughters, of whom the eldest was Delšād K̲ātūn (q.v.).

After the death of Čobān's rival Sevīnč (Sevenj) in 718/1318 Demašq K̲vāja seized control of the Šabānkāra district in Fārs, which he divided up among his supporters (Šabānkāraī, p. 180; cf. Naṭanzī, p. 9). In the revolt of the amirs against Čobān in the following year Shaikh 'Alī, son of Īrenjīn, seized Demašq K̲vājā, plundered his possessions, and almost killed him, believing himself to be acting with Abū Sa'īd's support (Waṣṣāf, p. 641; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, 1350 Š./1971, pp. 146-47; Samarqandī, p. 41; Melville). The amirs were defeated, however, and, as a result, Čobān's position became unassailable; Demašq K̲vāja, who was noted for his prudence and clear thinking, became his vicegerent (*nā'eb-e koll*; Šabānkāraī, p. 278).

As Demašq K̲vāja's power grew, so did his arrogance and the consequent resentment of the amirs at court. Abū Sa'īd, who was only a nominal ruler, complained of his behavior to Čobān and requested that one of Demašq K̲vāja's brothers, either Jelā'ū Khan or Shaikh Maḥmūd, replace him. Demašq K̲vāja blamed the sultan's disfavor on slanders by the vizier, Rokn-al-Dīn Šāyen (Ḥāfeẓ-e Abrū, pp. 168-69) and succeeded in having Šāyen removed from court. Demašq K̲vāja then acquired full control of affairs (*Tārīk-e gozīda*, ed. Browne, p. 607), but his rudeness to the sultan and his tyrannical behavior



increased. The situation came to a head with the supposed discovery that Demaşq K̄vāja was trespassing in the sultan’s harem (Ebn Baṭṭūṭa, tr. Gibb, II, pp. 337-38; Abu’l-Fedā’, p. 87; Ḥāfez-e Abrū, pp. 168-69). On this pretext Abū Sa’īd moved decisively against him, and Demaşq K̄vāja, while trying to escape from Solṭānīya, was captured by the amir Meşr K̄vāja and executed on 5 Şawwāl 727/24 August 1327. This harem intrigue was not mentioned by the contemporary authors, who reported instead that Abū Sa’īd was goaded into action by the hostility of the amirs (*Tārīk-e gozīda*, ed. Browne, p. 608; Şabānkāra’ī, pp. 280-81). Among the latter was Nūrīn Taḡāy, who had previously been banished from court by Demaşq K̄vāja until Čobān intervened in his favor (Ḥāfez-e Abrū, ms., fols. 523b-24a; Samarqandī, p. 86). According to Aharī (p. 55; tr., p. 154), Abū Sa’īd was distressed at Demaşq K̄vāja’s death, but this report was probably simply a gesture of respect to Delşād K̄ātūn; in fact, Abū Sa’īd then ordered the arrest of Čobān and his other sons in different parts of the empire.

Demaşq K̄vāja was buried in a mosque at Tabrīz that was built in his memory by his sister Baḡdād K̄ātūn (Ḥāfez Ḥosayn, p. 523).

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