



## DU'L-FAQĀR KHAN AFŠĀR

**DU'L-FAQĀR KHAN AFŠĀR**, governor (*ḥākem*) of Ḳamsa province (ca. 1177-94/1763-80) under the Zand dynasty. Of the Imīrlū clan of Afšārs, which had long been established at Zanjān, the chief city of the province, Du'l-Faqār was evidently already a local leader of some consequence before Karīm Khan Zand (1163-93/1750-79), on his way south after subjugating Azarbaijan, formally appointed him *ḥākem* of strategic Ḳamsa province in 1177/1763; Ḳamsa lay between Azarbaijan, Gīlān, and the Zand chieftain's home range in the province of Qalamrow-e 'Alī Šakar (Hamadān; Röhrborn, p. 8). In 1186/1772 Du'l-Faqār fell behind in his tax remittances to Shiraz and was reported to be plotting a bid for independence. Karīm Khan, already threatened by a Qajar revolt in the Caspian provinces, summoned him to the capital. Instead Du'l-Faqār sent his aging mother (Ġaffārī, pp. 306-07; Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-ṣafā* IX, p. 83; Nāmī, p. 169: his son), who assured the Zand ruler that the delinquent was a loyal and diligent servant and persuaded him to grant a respite. This ploy was repeated soon after, whereupon Karīm sent two forces under 'Alī-Morād Khan Zand and 'Alī-Moḥammad Khan Zand to dismiss and arrest Du'l-Faqār. 'Alī-Moḥammad Khan met Du'l-Faqār and a Šaqāqī Kurdish army at Abhar and defeated them in a fierce battle; Du'l-Faqār fled but was captured and taken to Shiraz, together with his family and forfeited property (Ġaffārī, pp. 307-08; Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-ṣafā* IX, p. 83; Tafrešī, fol. 217; Rostam-al-Ḥokamā', pp. 378-79; tr., pt. 2, pp. 633-34).

On the intercession of his mother, however, he was soon granted a full pardon and reinstated at Zanjān, though his family and dependents were detained as



hostages in Shiraz (Ġaffārī, p. 309; Perry, p. 122). In the spring of 1191/1777 Ɖu'l-Faqār cooperated in Karīm Khan's campaign against the Ottomans in Kurdistan, leading one arm of a three-pronged advance on Sanandaj, in which the Turks were defeated at Šahrazūr (Ġaffārī, p. 366; Perry, p. 191).

Two years later Ɖu'l-Faqār took advantage of the anarchy following Karīm Khan's death to gather a large army and occupy Qazvīn, threatening both the Zand and the Qajar contestants for control of the region between Gīlān and Tehran. While 'Alī-Morād Khan, acting on behalf of the late ruler's brother and would-be successor, Šādeq Khan, was at Isfahan after a defeat by Ja'farqolī Khan Qājār, Ɖu'l-Faqār sent a force against Tehran. It was repelled by the Zands (Ġaffārī, p. 489) or, according to pro-Qajar sources, by the Qajars (Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-šafā* IX, p. 136). Ɖu'l-Faqār then invaded Gīlān, captured the governor (*beglerbegī*), Hedāyat-Allāh Khan, and imprisoned him at Zanjān, appointing his own governor at Rašt. He next invaded Qalamrow. 'Alī-Morād Khan, who was again at Isfahan, had declared himself against the latest Zand claimant, Zakī Khan; after the latter had been killed by his own men at Īzadk̄vāst in 1193/1779 'Alī-Morād Khan marched against Ɖu'l-Faqār. In the ensuing clash at Šarrā' (northwest of Arāk) Ɖu'l-Faqār's force, notably his elite corps of 300 men, came close to defeating the Zand army, but 'Alī-Morād Khan's Bābān Kurdish reinforcements carried the day. Ɖu'l-Faqār fled to Zanjān, where his prisoner Hedāyat-Allāh was released by a faction of citizens and Ɖu'l-Faqār found himself besieged in his house as a pursuing Zand force approached the city. Breaking through a wall, he escaped with two or three followers to Kaḵkāl, where he was seized and handed over to 'Alī-Morād Khan at Zanjān. He was beheaded in late 1194/1780 or early 1195/1781 (Ġaffārī, pp. 490-96; Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-šafā* IX, pp. 159-60; Nāmī, pp. 129-31; Fasā'ī, I, p. 221; tr. Busse, p. 11).

'Alī-Morād Khan then appointed one 'Alī Khan Afšār to govern Kaḵsa province, but Ɖu'l-Faqār's family remained influential well into Qajar times (Nāmī, p. 255; Hedāyat, *Rawzat al-šafā* X, pp. 672, 713-14), later adopting Ɖu'l-Faqārī as surname (Bāmdād, *Rejāl* I, p. 506).



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