



DÜRMEŠ, KHAN

DÜRMEŠ (or Dormeš) KHAN b. ‘Abdī Beg TAVĀČĪ ŠĀMLŪ, powerful Qezelbāš amir, brother-in-law and confidant of Shah Esmā‘īl I (907-30/1501-24; *‘Ālamārā-ye šafawī*, pp. 148-49; *Ḥabīb al-sīar*, Tehran, IV, pp. 555, 558). In 909/1503 Dürmeš Khan was appointed governor of Isfahan but remained at court in Tabrīz and sent Mīrzā Shah Ḥosayn Ešfahānī to act for him (*Tārīk-e Šāh Esmā‘īl*, fol. 112b). At the battle of Čālderān in 920/1514 Dürmeš commanded the right wing of the Safavid army (*Tārīk-e Šāh Esmā‘īl*, fol. 249b; *Ḥabīb al-sīar*, Tehran, IV, p. 545: left wing) and proposed the fatal delay in attacking the Ottoman positions that led to Safavid defeat (Ḥasan Rūmlū, pp. 189-90; *‘Ālamārā-ye šafawī*, pp. 484-85). In *Tārīk-e Qezelbāš* (p. 19) Dürmeš Beg is described as *qūrčī-bāšī* during the battle of Dīārbakr (which took place in about 920/1514; 924/1518, given in the source, cannot be correct), but there seems to be no corroboration in other sources (Savory, IV, p. 101). In later years Shah Ṭahmāsb was said to have cursed the name of Dürmeš Khan whenever the battle of Čālderān was mentioned (K̄oršāh, fol. 473a), but in fact the shah seems to have borne no grudge, for in 923/1517 he appointed Dürmeš Khan *lala* (guardian) of his newborn son Sām Mīrzā (*Ḥabīb al-sīar*, Tehran, IV, p. 555). In 924-25/1518-19 Dürmeš Khan conducted successful campaigns in Māzandarān against rebellious local rulers (Ḥasan Rūmlū, pp. 218-19; *Ḥabīb al-sīar*, Tehran, IV, pp. 558-60, 562-64), and in 926/1520 he was sent to Baghdad to check the advance of the Ottoman Sultan Salīm, but the death of the sultan ended the threat (*Tārīk-e Šāh Esmā‘īl*, fol. 284b).

In a decree appointing Dürmeš Khan governor-general of Khorasan in



927/1521 Esmā'īl called him “the one who has the status of a son” (*rotba-ye farzandī*) to himself. The new governor reached Herat on 19 Ɖu'l-Ĥejja/20 November, followed by Sām Mīrzā on 17 Ramażān 928/10 August 1522. Dūrmeş Khan was unable to prevent Moĥammad Ẓahīr-al-Dīn Bābor from occupying Qandahār in May 1522 (*Ĥabīb al-sīar* IV, pp. 587-88, 590, 592), but in 930/1523-24 he successfully defended Herat against a prolonged siege by 'Obayd Khan Uzbek; he was confirmed as governor-general by Shah Ƥahmāsb (930-84/1524-76) but died in 931/1525 (*Ĥasan Rūmlū*, pp. 241-45, 248).

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