



EBN ẔARMĪL

EBN ẔARMĪL, military commander of the Ghurids, and connected, according to Jūzjānī, with the district of Gorzevān on the headwaters of the Morġāb in the province of Gūzgān in northern Afghanistan.

He is first heard of as a prominent commander of the Ghurid raids into India. He was made governor of Sialkot in the northern Panjab after the conquest of the town by Mo‘ezz-al-Dīn Moḥammad in 581/1185-86; in 590/1194 he and Qoṭb-al-Dīn Aybak were joint leaders of a raid through the Ganges plain in which the Raja of Benares was defeated. When Mo‘ezz-al-Dīn invaded K̄vārazm in 601/1204, he was commander of the van at the disaster of [Andkūy](#), but subsequently withdrew with his 5,000 personal troops. The latter part of his career found him as governor in Herat and Ṭālaqān, where he endeavored in the period of Ghurid decline, following Mo‘ezz-al-Dīn’s death in 602/1206, to preserve what was virtually an autonomous principality in northwest Afghanistan against his Ghurid suzerains, on the one side, and the mounting pressure of the K̄vārazmšāhs, on the other. When the K̄vārazmšāh ‘Alā’-al-Dīn Moḥammad appeared before Herat in 605/1208, Ebn Ẕarmīl submitted; but when the sultan became embroiled with the Qara Ẕetay in Trans-oxania, he re-opened negotiations with the Ghurid Ġiāt-al-Dīn Maḥmūd b. Ġiāt-al-Dīn Moḥammad. The sultan nevertheless sent an army against his unreliable vassal, but it was defeated. However, the K̄vārazmšāh in his turn had come to mistrust Ebn Ẕarmīl; he was accordingly removed from Herat, jailed in Qohestān, and soon afterwards killed.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

(For cited works not given in detail, see “Short References.”)

Jūzjānī, *Ṭabaqāt*, tr. Raverty, pp. 258-59, 264, 433.

Scattered references are to be found in the sections on Ghurid history in Ebn-al-Aṭīr; for the general background see C. E. Bosworth in *Camb. Hist. Iran* V, pp. 162 ff. ; idem, “Ghūrīds” in *EI* ² II, pp. 1099-104.