



EBRĀHĪM SHAH AFŠĀR

EBRĀHĪM SHAH AFŠĀR, nephew of Nāder Shah, claiming the Afsharid throne briefly (1161-62/1748-49). Ebrāhīm was born the second of four sons of Moḥammad-Ebrāhīm Beg, Nāder's younger brother, and was first named Moḥammad-'Alī. After his father's death on a campaign in 1152/1739, he took the name Ebrāhīm Beg. During the 1740s he was military commander (*sardār*) of Azarbaijan and campaigned successfully against the Safavid pretender Sām Mīrzā at Ardabīl. On Nāder Shah's assassination in 1160/1747 Ebrāhīm's elder brother 'Alīqolī Khan was raised to the throne as 'Ādel Shah by his Sīstānī supporters and, electing to stay in Mašhad, sent Ebrāhīm (then aged about twenty-two) to govern Isfahan and adjacent regions. Here he requisitioned supplies and recruited troops from as far away as Fārs. Suspecting that he aimed at the throne, 'Ādel Shah sent his Georgian brother-in-law, Sohrāb Khan, to gather information. Ebrāhīm had him murdered in Šafar 1161/February 1748 and, after a raid on the fortress of Kermānšāh which secured him more troops and artillery, marched north to join the forces of his cousin Amir Ašlān Khan, military commander of Azarbaijan, who was already in revolt. 'Ādel Shah marched to the Ḳamsa district and intercepted his brother's army in Jomādā II 1161/June 1748; many of his troops deserted to Ebrāhīm, who won a complete victory. Having captured and blinded 'Ādel, Ebrāhīm next turned on Amir Ašlān, who had apparently withheld his promised support; near Marāḡa, Amir Ašlān was defeated and subsequently put to death. Ebrāhīm then occupied Tabrīz and on 17 Ḍu'l-ḡejja 1161/8 December 1748 was crowned shah.



Two months previously, however, a junta of amirs had raised Nāder's grandson Šāhroḡ to the throne at Mašhad. Ebrāhīm advanced with a large army in Jomādā II 1162/June-July 1749, but at the village of Sorḡa near Semnān his artillery and other units under Persian officers turned against his Afghan and Uzbek troops, and the army disintegrated. Ebrāhīm fled back to Qom, but he was denied entry by Mīr Sayyed Moḡammad, superintendent of the shrine at Mašhad, whom 'Ādel Shah had taken on campaign. Deserted even by his Afghan followers, Ebrāhīm was handed over by the commandant of a fortress in which he sought refuge. He was sent in chains to Mašhad together with his former prisoner 'Ādel Shah, but died or was killed on the way.

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