



ESFANDĪĀR KHAN BAQTĪĀRĪ, ŞAMŞĀM-AL-SALTĀNA, SARDĀR(-E) AS'AD

ESFANDĪĀR KHAN BAQTĪĀRĪ, ŞAMŞĀM-AL-SALTĀNA, SARDĀR(-E) AS'AD (b. mid-19th century, possibly in 1260/1844; d. 1320/1902), important leader of the BaqtĪārĪ tribe (q.v.) in southwestern Persia and grandfather of Queen Torayyā.

EsfandĪār Khan was the the eldest son of ḤosaynqolĪ Khan, the first and great *ilḳānĪ* of the BaqtĪārĪ, and BībĪ Ḳānom. As the eldest son of the *ilḳān* and one of his favorites, along with 'AlīqolĪ Khan Sardar As'ad II, EsfandĪār served his father in a variety of administrative roles in BaqtĪārĪ affairs. He also had diplomatic and military responsibilities on behalf of the Qajar dynasty. He held the ranks of *sarhang* (1285/1869) and *sartĪp* (1291/1874) of the BaqtĪārĪ cavalymen (*savārs*) in Nāşer-al-DĪn Shah's army and in Mas'ūd MĪrzā Ḳell-al-Solṫān's militia.

After his father was killed by Ḳell-al-Solṫān in 1299/1882, EsfandĪār was appointed *ilbegĪ* while his uncle EmāmqolĪ was *ilḳānĪ*, and then in 1895, EsfandĪār was appointed *ilḳānĪ* of the BaqtĪārĪ and at the same time was probably entitled Şamşām-al-Saltāna. From 1897 until his death in 1320/1902, however, he was generally known by the title Sardār(-e) As'ad. This division of power between the *ilbegĪ* headed by EsfandĪār and the HājĪ IlḳānĪ headed by



Emāmqolī, and then their respective heirs, was to last until the 1930s and was to have important consequences for the whole of southwestern Persia in the context of the discovery of oil and the history of the Constitutional Revolution (q.v.).

When Esfandīār died the title of Sardār As'ad was bestowed on his most important brother, 'Alīqolī Khan, and his earlier title of Şamşām-al-Salṭana was granted to another brother Najafqolī Khan, both of whom were to play critical roles in the Constitutional Revolution. After 1895 particularly, Esfandīār Khan was the most important Baqtīārī leader and played the dominant role in the tribal area, including the distribution of power and administration there, the tribe's relationship with Tehran and Isfahan, and the development of the Baqtīārī road that linked the Persian Gulf and Kūzestān with Isfahan and thereby Tehran. In addition, he held major land holdings in southwestern Persia.

Esfandīār married four times: to Bibī Setāra (I), Bibī Kātūnjān, Bibī Setāra (II)—all of whom were Baqtīārī—and to Bibī Masadat, an Arab woman from Kūzestān. He fathered ten sons and six daughters who lived to maturity; most notably, Moḥammad-Jawād Sardār Eqbāl and Nāşer-qolī Monazzem-al-Molk.

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