



## ESMĀ'ĪL III ŞAFAWĪ

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**ESMĀ'ĪL III ŞAFAWĪ**, ABŪ TORĀB, Safavid shadow-king, (1163-87/1750-73), the third Safavid dynast of that name, even though the chroniclers generally refer to him as Esmā'īl the second (*tāni*). His father was Mīrzā Mortazā, a former court official, and his mother was a daughter of Shah Solţān-Ĥosayn. When 'Alī-Mardān Khan Baġtīārī and Karīm Khan Zand occupied Isfahan in the summer of 1163/1750, they raised Abū Torāb to the throne as a sop to pro-Safavid sentiment and as a front to legitimize their rule. The new Shah Esmā'īl was then about seventeen years old; he never enjoyed actual power, and the fiction of his sovereignty was barely maintained. After Karīm Khan's accession as *wakīl* (regent, viceroy), Esmā'īl was kept a virtual prisoner in the fortress of Ābāda with a pension of one *tomān* per day. He died there in 1187/1773.

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