



'EZZAT-AL-DAWLA, MALEKAZĀDA KĀNOM

'EZZAT-AL-DAWLA, MALEKAZĀDA KĀNOM (b. 1250/1834-35, d. 23 Rabī' II 1323/27 June 1905, [Figure 1](#)), the only full sister of Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah (1264-313/1848-96), second wife of Mīrzā Taqī Khan Amīr[-e] Kabīr (q.v.), and grandmother of Moḥammad-'Alī Shah (r. 1324-27/1907-09). In 1265/January-February 1849, Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah decided to marry her off to his grand vizier, Mīrzā Taqī Khan. Despite the efforts of the king's mother, Mahd-e 'Olyā, who feared that the union would increase Mīrzā Taqī Khan's power and diminish hers in the royal court as well as that of her close ally, Mīrzā Āqā Khan E'temād-al-Dawla Nūrī (q.v.), and despite the fact that Mīrzā Taqī Khan himself had no real desire to marry again, the wedding took place on 22 Rabī' I/17 February 1849 (Amīr-e Kabīr, p. 367; Ādamīyat, p. 667). 'Ezzat-al-Dawla bore him two daughters, Tāj-al-Molūk and Hamdam-al-Molūk, but the marriage ended with the fall and execution of Mīrzā Taqī Khan in Kāšān on 17 Rabī I 1268/10 January 1852. During the three years that they were married, 'Ezzat-al-Dawla remained loyal and loving toward her husband despite speculations to the contrary (Fathī). In the same year that Amīr Kabīr was killed, Nāṣer-al-Dīn Shah forced her to marry Mīrzā Kāzem Khan Neẓām-al-Molk, the son of his new grand vizier, Mīrzā Āqā Khan E'temād-al-Dawla. The marriage, which lasted seven years, has been characterized as having been affected by the hate and disgust that 'Ezzat-al-Dawla felt toward her new husband (Eqbāl, pp. 369-70; Nayyer Nūrī, pp. 508-9; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* III, p. 145-46; E'temād-al-Salṭana, *Ma'āter wa'l-āṭār*, comm., p. 477; Sa'adat Nūrī, p. 32). The few extant letters of



‘Ezzat-al-Dawla to N ezām-al-Molk, however, reveal what seems to be her affection for him (Nayyer Nūrī, pp. 509-14). In any event, ‘Ezzat-al-Dawla was married off to her cousin Šīr Khan ‘Ayna-al-Molk, with whom, according to Bāmdād (*Rejāl* II, 157), she already had an affair. ‘Ayna-al-Molk died in 1285/1868, and ‘Ezzat-al-Dawla was married (until 1309/1892) to Mīrzā Ḥosayn Khan Sepahsālār’s brother, Yaḥyā Khan Mošīr-al-Dawla, and later to Sepahsālār’s secretary, Mīrzā Naṣr-Allāh Khan. ‘Ezzat-al-Dawla’s daughter, Tāj-al-Molūk, now called Omm-al-Ḳāqān, married the crown prince Moẓaffar-al-Dīn Mīrzā and bore him a son, the later Moḥammad-‘Alī Shah.

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Figure 1. 'Ezzat-al-Dawla. After B. Ātābāy, *Fehrest-e& #155;lbomhā-ye Ketāb-kāna-ye salţanatī*, Tehran, 2537=1357 Š./1978, album no. 289, p. 16.