



FARMĀNFARMĀ

FARMĀNFARMĀ (lit. “giver of an order,” i.e., ruler, commander), an epithet with three usages in the Safavid and Qajar periods.

1. As a general form of address, *farmānfarmā* was used by the Safavid shahs and their officials in addressing the European monarchs, interchangeably with *farmānravā* and *farmānda* (see, *inter alia*, letters and edicts of Shah‘Abbās, Shah Šafī, Shah Solayman, and Bīglarbeygī of Erevan in J. Qā‘em-maqāmī, *Yakšad o panjāh sanad-e tārīkī az Jalāyeriān tā Pahlavī*, Tehran 1348 Š./1969, pp. 28-29, 39-40, 48-51, 83-85.)

2. As a form of address *farmānfarmā* was used for distinguished governor-generals, interchangeably with or in addition to their occupational epithets, *hokmrān* and *wālī*. For instance the crown prince Moẓaffar-al-Dīn Mīrzā, Mas‘ūd Mīrzā Zell-al-Soltān, and Farhād Mīrzā Mo‘tamad-al-Dawla (q.v.) were addressed, in the late 19th century, as *farmānfarmā*, *hokmrān* and *wālī* of Azarbaijan, Isfahan, and Fārs respectively (e.g., E‘temād-al-Saltāna, *Montaẓam-e nāšeri*, ed. Reẓwānī, I, p. 467, III, pp. 2067, 2139; *Waqāye‘-e ettefāqīya*, ed. ‘A.-A. Sa‘īdī Sīrjānī, Tehran, 1361 Š./1984, pp. 33-62, systematically uses *farmānfarmā* instead of *wālī* in addressing Yaḥyā Khan Mo‘tamad-al-Molk, governor general of Fārs from 1875-76, who had not been granted *farmānfarmā* as his personal title).

3. As a personal title *farmānfarmā* was bestowed upon five prince-governors and a tribal khan-governor. Initiated by Faṭḥ-‘Alī Shah (q.v.) in 1212/1797, the title was first bestowed upon the Shah’s fifth son, Ḥosayn-‘Alī Mīrzā, when he



was appointed as governor-general of Fārs. Following the death of Ḥosayn-‘Alī Mīrzā in 1251/1835, the title was granted to the following governor-generals: Fereydūn Mīrzā, the fifth son of the crown prince ‘Abbās Mīrzā (q.v.), in 1252/1836 when he was appointed governor-general of Fārs; Fīrūz Mīrzā Noṣrat-al-Dawla, the 16th son of the crown prince ‘Abbās Mīrzā, in 1293/1876 when he was appointed as governor-general of the central province; Maḥmūd Khan Nāṣer-al-Molk, the khan of the Qaragūzlū tribe of Hamadān, in 1303/1886 when he was appointed governor-general of Khorasan; Solṭān ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd Mīrzā Nāṣer-al-Dawla, the first son of Fīrūz Mīrzā Noṣrat-al-Dawla, in 1306/1888, two years after he inherited the governorship of Kermān and Baluchistan; and finally the title was bestowed upon ‘Abd-al-Ḥosayn Mīrzā, the second son of Noṣrat-al-Dawla, in 1309/1892 when his brother Nāṣer-al-Dawla died.

(Ahmad Ashraf)