



## HĀRUN B. ALTUNTAŠ

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**HĀRUN B. ALTUNTAŠ**, son of a Turkish slave commander of Maḥmud of Ghazna (q.v.) who served as governor in K̲vārazm from 423/1032 until 426/1035 (see [CHORASMIA ii.](#)), first of all for the Ghaznavids, and then as an independent ruler. Hārūn succeeded his father Altuntaš as *de facto* governor of K̲vārazm on his death in Jomādā I 423/April-May 1032 (for the events leading up to this, see [ALTUNTAŠ](#)). However, the suspicious Sultan Masʿud (q.v.) had already grown mistrustful of Altuntaš and his family. Hence he appointed his young son Saʿid as nominal K̲vārazm-Šāh, with Hārūn serving merely as his lieutenant (*kalifat-al-dār*). Soon afterwards, Sultan Masʿud also sent his agent ʿAbd-al-Jabbār as *kadkodā*, or adjutant, with a brief to watch over Hārūn and his activities (Bayhaqī, pp. 355-56, 372-73). For his part, Hārūn's animosity was aroused by the report, in 424/1033, of the death of one of his brothers in Ghazna in ambiguous circumstances (*ibid.*, pp. 403, 680). He accordingly gathered together troops and allied himself with Masʿud's enemies, the Qarakhanid ʿAlitegen (q.v.) and, subsequently, his sons, with the aim of attacking Marv and Khorasan while the Qarakhanids attacked the upper Oxus provinces. Furthermore, in Šaʿbān 425/June-July 1034 he symbolically omitted Masʿud's name from the *koṭba* (Friday sermon) of K̲vārazm and used his own in its place (*ibid.*, pp. 422, 433, 465, 681). The sultan plotted to procure Hārūn's death, and on 2 Jomādā II 426/14 April 1035 Hārūn was attacked by a group of his palace *gōlāms* (military slaves) and infantrymen, dying four days later; Hārūn's forces had to lift the threat to Marv, and ʿAlitegen's sons had to abandon the siege of Termed on the Oxus (*ibid.*, pp. 686-87; for the course of subsequent events, see [ALTUNTAŠ](#)).



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The sole contemporary source is Abu'l-Faḥl Bayhaqī, *Tārīḳ-e mas'udi*, ed. Ġani and Fayyāz, Tehran, 1945, in the latter part of which Bayhaqī incorporated Biruni's history of his native Ḳvārazm.

For secondary sources, see the bibliography to ALTUNTAŠ.