



## ḤASAN-‘ALI BEG BEṢṬĀMI

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**ḤASAN-‘ALI BEG BEṢṬĀMI**, one of Nāder Shah’s closest associates, held the title *mo‘ayyer al-mamālek* or “chief assayer” and played an important advisory role throughout Nāder’s reign.

Apparently a slave of Armenian or Georgian origin, Ḥasan-‘Ali had entered royal service in Sultan Ḥosayn’s time, becoming an important Safavid official by the 1720s. In 1138/1726, Ṭahmāsb II dispatched him to report on the activities of Nāder, who was then campaigning around Abivard. Ḥasan-‘Ali persuaded Nāder to join Ṭahmāsb in crushing the rebel Malek Maḥmud of Sistān and appointed him deputy governor of Abivard on Ṭahmāsb’s behalf. This encounter marked the beginning of a long and close connection between Ḥasan-‘Ali and Nāder.

In the early 1140s/1730s, Ḥasan-‘Ali resided in Isfahan, carrying messages and gifts between Nāder and Ṭah-māsb as well as overseeing fiscal affairs there. He kept Nāder informed about the situation of the royal court, and played a part in Ṭahmāsb’s deposition and the crowning of the infant ‘Abbās III in 1144/1732 (Mo-ḥammad Kāzem Marvi, *Tāriḳ-e ‘alamārā-ye nāderi* I, ed. M. A. Riāḩi, Tehran, 1985, pp. 232-34). By 1148/1736, Ḥasan-‘Ali had become one of Nāder’s principal advisors and was at his side during the Moḡān coronation ceremony (*ibid.*, II, pp. 448-49). From that time until Nāder’s death, Beṣṭāmi resided permanently in the shah’s camp. When Nāder was assassinated in 1160/1747, Ḥasan-‘Ali escaped alive, causing Nāder’s Jesuit doctor, Bazin, to believe that he had some involvement in the plot (Père Louis Bazin, “Seconde lettre . . . conte-nant les révolutions qui suivrent la mort de Thamas Kouli-



Khan,” *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses* IV, Paris, 1780, pp. 322-64, particularly pp. 346-47; Bāmdād, *Rejāl* I, p. 434).

After Nāder’s demise, Ḥasan-‘Ali served briefly as an important advisor to ‘Ādel Shah, Nāder’s nephew and successor. He then made his way back to Isfahan, where he is said to have counseled Karim Khan Zand to enthrone Abu Torāb Mirzā as Shah Esmā‘il III in 1163/1750 (Abu’l-Ḥasan Golestāna, *Mojmal al-tawāriq*, ed. Modarres Rażawi, Tehran, 1965, p. 172). Ḥasan-‘Ali’s descendants took the title *mo‘ayyer al-mamālek* as their family name. One of them, Ḥasan-‘Ali, served as an official of Fath-‘Ali Shah and married one of his daughters around 1249/1834.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Given in the text.