



## İNĀNČ KĀTUN

**İNĀNČ KĀTUN** (Inānj Kātun), wife of the Atābeg Noşrat-al-Din Jahān-Pahlavān Moḥammad b. Šams-al-Din Eldigüz (r. 571-82/1175-86), the Eldigüzid or Ildegizid ruler in Arrān, most of Azarbaijan, and then Jebāl. She was the daughter of the powerful Turkish governor of Ray, nominally for the later Saljuqs, Ḥosām-al-Din Īnānč Sonqor, who was killed at the instigation of Eldigüz in 564/1169 (Rāvandi, rev. ed., pp. 292-96; Ebn al-Aṭir, XI, p. 348).

Obviously an ambitious and forceful personality, Inānč Kātun played a leading role in the confused political and military maneuverings in northwestern Persia after Jahān-Pahlavān Moḥammad's death. The latter's brother and successor, Moẓaffar-al-Din Qizil (Qezel) Arslān 'Otmān (r. 582-87/1186-91), married his brother's widow according to the custom of the levirate (Ḥosayni, p. 179, tr. p. 464; Abu Ḥāmed, p. 86; Rāvandi, p. 363; Ebn al-Aṭir, XI, pp. 525-26; cf. Bondāri, ed. Houtsma, pp. 142-44). Jahān-Pahlavān Moḥammad seems to have made an arrangement for his four sons to share out his personal lands under the general supervision and overlordship of Qizil Arslān (Ḥosayni, p. 173, tr. p. 455; cf. Luther, p. 396). In the internecine squabbles which ensued, Inānč Kātun supported the claims of her own two sons by Jahān-Pahlavān Moḥammad, Qutluḡ Īnānč Maḥmud and Amir-e Amirān 'Omar, against her first husband's two sons by slave mothers.

Meanwhile, the last of the Great Saljuqs of the west, Toḡrīl (III) b. Arslān, was attempting to break free from Qizil Arslān's tutelage. He allied with Qutluḡ Īnānč Maḥmud against Qizil Arslān and the latter's son Noşrat al-Din Abu Bakr, but after failing to secure outside help had to surrender to Qizil Arslān in



586/1190 and suffer imprisonment at the Atābeg's hands (Bondāri, pp. 301-2; Rāvandi, p. 362; Ebn al-Aṭir, XI, p. 560, XII, p. 76; cf. Houtsma, pp. 145-50). However, Qizil Arslān, who had now assumed for himself, with the Abbasid caliph al-Nāṣer's approval, the title of sultan, was murdered in mysterious circumstances in Ša'bān 587/August-September 1191, apparently by one of his own *golāms*, but possibly at the prompting of his wife Īnānč Kātun (Ḥosayni, p. 181; tr., pp. 467-68; Abu Ḥāmed, p. 89; Rāvandi, p. 363; Bondāri, ed. Houtsma, p. 302; Ebn-al-Aṭir, XII, pp. 75-76). Toḡrīl, now released from captivity by the amirs of Azarbaijan, quickly defeated Qutluḡ Īnānč Maḥmud and Amir-e Amirān 'Omar near Qazvin and drove the former to seek security in the citadel of Ray (Ebn al-Aṭir, XII, pp. 94, 106). Īnānč Kātun surrendered to Toḡrīl and married him, probably in 588/1192 (Abu Ḥāmed, p. 90; according to Rāvandi, pp. 366-67, in the following year), but died at Hamadān shortly afterwards (Ḥosayni, pp. 183-84, 189-90; tr. 471-73, 481, according to whom her son Qutluḡ Īnānč Maḥmud suspected the Saljuq sultan of killing her; Rāvandi, pp. 366-67, specifically says that Toḡrīl had her strangled).

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