



ḲALIL SOLṬĀN B. MIRĀNŠĀH B. TIMUR

ḲALIL SOLṬĀN b. MIRĀNŠĀH b. TIMUR (b. Herat, 14 July 1384; d. Ray, 2-3 November 1411), Timurid ruler (1405-09). His mother, Sevin Beg, known as Ḳānzāda, was descended from [Čengiz Khan](#) on her mother's side (Mo'ezz, fol. 126b). She had earlier been married to Timur's son, Jahāngir, and was also the mother of Timur's first designated successor, Moḥammad Solṭān (d. 1403). As a child, Ḳalil Solṭān was entrusted to Timur's wife, Saray Malek Ḳānum, to be raised in the central court. Ḳānzāda also lived at Timur's court after 1397, and Ḳalil appears to have been closer to her than to his father (Woods, 1984, p. 334). He became active in the military on the Indian campaign in 1398-99 and played a prominent part in the seven-year campaign of 1399-1404 (Šaraf-al-Din 'Ali Yazdi, 1957, II, pp. 38, 113, 242, 303). In 1403 Timur appointed him governor of Baylaqān, Arrān, Armenia, and Georgia, but he may actually have remained at his former post in northern Transoxiana (Šaraf-al-Din 'Ali Yazdi, 1957, pp. 321, 386, 425).

At the outset of Timur's campaign against China in 1404, Ḳalil Solṭān wintered in Tashkent and Šāhrokiya, where he learned of Timur's death in February 1405. On his deathbed Timur had named Pir Moḥammad b. Jahāngir as his successor, but Ḳalil Solṭān succeeded in having himself elected as ruler by his commanders, and persuaded the emirs in [Samarqand](#) to refuse entry to Pir



Moḥammad's supporters. On 18 March, Ḳalil was proclaimed ruler in Samarqand, naming Ḳānzāda's grandson Moḥammad Jahāngir b. Moḥammad Solṭān as khan (Komaroff, 1986, p. 216; Tāj-al-Salmāni, 1956, pp. 33-44, fols. 40a-60a; Ḥāfeẓ-e Abru, 1993, pp. 12-13). For Timur's burial he chose Moḥammad Solṭān's mausoleum rather than the family necropolis in Šahr-e Sabz. These actions were probably designed to placate the emirs who had served Moḥammad Solṭān and remained loyal to his descendants.

Ḳalil Solṭān made peace with Šāhroḳ, who controlled Khorasan (Ḥāfeẓ-e Abru, 1993, pp. 20-21), and most of the central bureaucracy remained with him (Mo'ezz, fols. 97b, 127a; Faṣiḥ Ḳvāfi, III, p. 193). However, Timur's chief emirs disapproved of his takeover, and many deserted him, leaving him dependent on the foreign troops stationed in Transoxiana. Ḳalil Solṭān continued Timur's Mongol legitimation; a sketch of his court which shows Čengizid princes in a place of honor and a genealogy in Uighur, connecting the dynasty with the Čengizid house, have been attributed to his reign (Ando, 1996, pp. 18-22; Woods, 1990, pp. 111-12). He also showed an interest in history, and it is likely that part of the account of Timur's Indian campaign was written for him (Ġiāt-al-Din 'Ali Yazdi, 2000, pp. 59, 72, 115-16). In poetry, Ḳalil was both a practitioner and a patron; the famous poet, 'Esmat Boḳāri and others were gathered at his court (Dawlatšāh, 1901, pp. 352-61; Navā'i, 1945, pp. 12, 125, 187-88).

Timurid historians blame Ḳalil Solṭān's failure partly on his second wife, Šād Malek, a commander's concubine whom Ḳalil Solṭān had married secretly. Timur separated the pair, but Ḳalil Solṭān later reinstated Šād Malik, and she was considered the instigator of his most scandalous act: marrying the widows of Timur and Moḥammad Solṭān to his emirs, some of low birth (Šaraf-al-Din 'Ali Yazdi, II, 1957, p. 454; Tāj-al-Salmāni, 1956, pp. 43-44/fols. 60a-61b, 117-20). Ḳalil Solṭān was considered extravagant, and the treasury was said to be empty at the time of his capture in 1409. Despite his generosity to the army, the foreign troops serving him deserted him in large numbers from 1408 onwards (Ibn 'Arabšāh, pp. 269, 278; Tāj-al-Salmāni, p. 96).

To the south, Ḳalil Solṭān fought Pir Moḥammad b. Jahāngir, who was helped by Šāhroḳ in his attempt to take the throne. Ḳalil managed to repel him, and in February 1407 Pir Moḥammad was murdered by one of his own followers. To



the north, a coalition of Moḥammad Solṭān's emirs, led by Ḳodāydād Ḥosayni and Shaikh Nur-al-Din, attempted to take the throne for one of Moḥammad Solṭān's young sons. In 1409 Ḳodāydād invited in Šāhroḳ, and in March 1409 captured Ḳalil Solṭān. Šāhroḳ took Samarḳand, installed his son Uluḡ Beg as governor, and ruled the combined realm from Herat. He sent Ḳalil Solṭān to 'Eraq-e 'Ajam, ordering him to establish rule over Mirānšāh's former territories in northwestern Iran. Ḳalil Solṭān went to Ray and became active in regional politics but made no attempt to expand to the west (Manz, 2007, pp. 21, 24-25). He died on 2-3 November 1411 (Ḥafez-e Abru, 1993, pp. 436-37).

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