



KĀŞŞ BEG

KĀŞŞ BEG ARSLĀN B. PALANG-ERI, Turkish *gōlām* who became the *hājeb* “chamberlain” and court favorite of the Great Saljuq Sultan Mas‘ud b. Moḥammad b. Malek Šāh (r. 1134-52); he played a prominent role in the troubled events of western Persia during that reign. Palang-Eri, Persian-Turkish “leopard-man,” seems to be a probable rendering of the ductus in the sources, *b.l.n.k.r.y*

He is described as the son of a Turkmen from the Oghuz settled in Azarbaijan (Pseudo-Nišāpuri, tr. Luther, p. 110; Ebn al-Aṭir (Beirut), XI, p. 163). He was nurtured by Sultan Mas‘ud and had risen high in his counsels. After the killing of the amir ʿToḡan-Yürek, who had been governor of Azarbaijan and Arrān and was atabeg to the sultan’s nephew, Malek Šāh b. Maḥmud, Kāşş Beg succeeded to these offices. His ascendancy aroused violent resentment among rival Turkish amirs, and when the sultan’s uncle Sanjar came to Ray in 1149-50, he made threats against Mas‘ud if Kāşş Beg were not removed. In the event, however, Sanjar was reconciled to Kāşş Beg’s role in the state (Bondāri, p. 224; Ḥoseyni, p. 121; Rāvandi, p. 343; Ebn al-Aṭir (Beirut), XI, pp. 133-34, 143). Kāşş Beg nevertheless remained close to Mas‘ud, and when the latter died in October 1152, Kāşş Beg proclaimed Malek Šāh as Mas‘ud’s *vali-‘ahd*, or covenanted successor, and assumed the dominant position in the state (Zāhir-al-Din Nišāpuri, p. 105; Bondāri, pp. 227-28; Ebn al-Aṭir (Beirut) XI, p. 161). Malek Šāh ruled for only four months, however, before Kāşş Beg replaced him with his brother, Moḥammad b. Maḥmud. The new sultan, however, wished to be free of constraints, and immediately procured the murder of Kāşş Beg and



the *jāndār* or sultan's personal guard Zangi, confiscating Kāşş Beg's great wealth and possessions (Pseudo-Nişāpuri, pp. 121-22; Zahir-al-Din Nişāpuri, pp. 90-91; Bondāri, pp. 228-30; Hōseyni, pp. 127-28; Rāvandi, pp. 259-61; Ebn al-Aṭir (Beirut), XI, pp. 161-63).

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