



MO'AYYED AY-ABA

MO'AYYED AY-ABA, (مؤید آیه) or Malek Ay-Aba (r. 1168-74), a slave (*gōlām*) of the Saljuqid king, Sultan Sanjar (r. 1197-1218), who ruled in **Nišāpur** (r. 1168-74) in his name.

The record about Mo'ayyed's career is mainly associated with the **Ġozz** attack on Khorasan, which was a pivotal event in the history of the Saljuqs (1037-1194). Mo'ayyed was promoted from slave rank to the commander of the army (*amir*) under his master Sultan Sanjar (r. 1118-57) in defending Marv against the invading Ġozz in 1153. Sultan Sanjar decided to withdraw from the battlefield when Ġozz women and children pleaded for peace, but several commanders, including Mo'ayyed, urged him not to. The majority of the troops who were not under the command of Mo'ayyed, however, withdrew, which led to the startling defeat of the Saljuqs (Ḥosayni, p. 123; Bayzāwi, pp. 78-79; Nišāpuri, pp. 49, 62-63; Rāvandi, p. 179; Mostawfi, pp. 450-51). The Ġozz wreaked unprecedented devastation, looting the major cities of Khorasan, in particular Marv, the capital of Sanjar, and Nišāpur (Nišāpuri, pp. 49-50; Rāvandi, pp. 180-81; Yāqut, V, p. 330). Sanjar himself was kept in captivity for two years (Rašid-al-Dīn Fażl-Allāh, ed. Rowšan, p. 69; Rāvandi, p. 183; Ebn al-Atīr, XI, pp. 176-78) or two and a half (Nišāpuri, p. 51).

In the absence of Sultan Sanjar, Mo'ayyed Ay-Aba ruled in Nišāpur in the name of Sanjar. He reconstructed Šādyāk, one of the neighborhoods of Nišāpur, and transferred the center of the Saljuqs' power from Marv to Nišāpur (Nišāpuri, p. 51; Yāqut, V, pp. 330-31). Mo'ayyed ultimately helped Sanjar escape from Ġozz captivity in **Balkh** in 1156. Arriving at the place



where the Sultan was imprisoned, Mo'ayyed deceived the guards with the promise of a stipend (*nānpāra*) and took the Sultan to Marv across the **Oxus** (Nišāpuri, p. 51; Rāvandi, p. 183; Rašid-al-Din Fażl-Allāh, ed. Rowšan, pp. 69-70; Mar'aši, p. 19; Mostawfi, p. 452).

After Sanjar's death in late 1156, the military commanders raised Maḥmud b. Moḥammad, the nephew of Sanjar, to the throne in Nišāpur, but Mo'ayyed defeated Maḥmud and, after blinding him, rose to power himself in August 1168 (Nišāpuri, p. 52; Jovayni, II, pp. 15-16; Mostawfi, p. 453).

The death of Sanjar marked the true end of the Saljuq empire in Khorasan (Tor). Khorasan was subsequently fragmented among the regional powers. Marv, Balkh, and Sarakhs were in the hands of the Ġozz, who mentioned the dead Sanjar in their formal public address (*koṭba*; Rašid-al-Din Fażl-Allāh, ed. Rowšan, p. 71; Moḥammad-Ebrāhim, p. 43; Barthold, p. 335; Rowšanžamir, pp. 78-79; Bosworth, pp. 185-94). **Herat** and **Ghazna** were under the control of the **Ghurids** (1149-1216; Juzjāni, 1, p. 274; Mar'aši, p. 25; Barthold, p. 338). However, Mo'ayyed titled himself "Mo'ayyed-al-Din Sanjari" and legitimized his own power as the slave, commander, the savior of the late Sultan, and now his true successor (Juzjāni, 1, p. 273; Mostawfi, p. 487).

Mo'ayyed ruled in Nišāpur over an area that included **Jām**, **Bākerz**, Sangān, Jājorm, Sirān, Šārestān, and **Juzjān** (Ebn Fondoq, p. 325; Juzjāni, I, p. 273; Ḥāfez Abru, III, p. 31). In fact, there was a village in the Nišāpur area which was called Mo'ayyediya or Mo'ayyedi after him, even after the **Mongols** ruled in the region (Ḥākem Nišāpuri, p. 277; Rašid-al-Din Fażl-Allāh, ed. Jahn, p. 23).

Mo'ayyed developed peaceful relations with the neighboring local dynasties of the Ghurids, the Saljuqs of **Jebāl** stationed in **Ray** (1040-194), and the Ġozz in **Kerman** (Afzal-al-Din Kermāni, pp. 38, 48; Moḥammad-Ebrāhim, p. 168; Juzjāni, I, pp. 273-74; Ḥāfez Abru, III, p. 32). In 1163, he incorporated **Bastām** and **Dāmḡān** into his territories (Mar'aši, pp.108-09; Moḥammad-Ebrāhim, p. 43; Rowšanžamir, p. 73).

The main power challenging Mo'ayyed's rule was the **Chorasmian** kings (Ḳ^vārazmšāhs), who steadily attacked northern Khorasan. In 1165, war broke out between Mo'ayyed and Sultan **Il-Arslān** Ḳ^vārazmšāh (r. 1156-72). Il-Arslān successfully repelled Mo'ayyed's attack, but his march on Nišāpur ended in failure (Ebn Fondoq, p. 325; Jovayni, II, p. 16; Mostawfi, p. 485; Barthold, p. 335; Rowšanžamir, p. 80). To end his conflicts with the superior power of



Ḳ̄'ārazmšāh, Mo'ayyed made peace with him and introduced the *koṭba* (a formal public address preceding the Friday prayer) in the name of Il-Arslān in his province (Jovayni, II, pp. 15-16; Barthold, p. 335).

Mo'ayyed, however, became the victim of succession conflicts between Tekeš and his brother, Solṭānšāh. After the death of Il-Arslān, his youngest son, Solṭānšāh, ascended the throne with the help of his mother Torkān. The eldest son, Tekeš, who was the ruler of *Jand* at that time, refused to confirm his brother's authority and appealed for help to the Turko-Mongol dynasty of the *Qara Ketāy* Khanate (r. 1124-218) stationed in *Balāsāqun* and marched to Chorasmia in 1173 (Jovayni, II, p. 17; Rašid-al-Din Faḏl-Allāh, ed. Rowšan, p. 73; Ḳal'atbari and Šarafī, p. 25). Solṭānšāh and his mother left Chorasmia without any struggle (Jovayni, II, pp. 17-19; Barthold, p. 337) and fled to Nišāpur to provoke Mo'ayyed against Tekeš. Mo'ayyed accepted their request and launched an expedition against Tekeš in 1174. The battle broke out near the small town of Suberli, about 125 km from Chorasmia. Since the entire army could not cross the steppe in one body, Mo'ayyed's army covered this march in small detachments. But the very first section, which included Mo'ayyed himself, was attacked and destroyed by the Chorasmians. In this battle, which ended with the victory of Tekeš, Solṭānšāh and Torkān Ḳātun fled to Dehestān and Mo'ayyed was taken prisoner and put to death in *Du'l-ḥejja* 569/July 1174 (Jovayni, II, pp. 18-19; Šabānkāra'i, p. 137; Mostawfi, p. 487; Barthold, pp. 337-38; Ebn al-Aṭir, XI, p. 385).

After Mo'ayyed, his descendants Ṭoḡānšāh (r. 1174-85) and Sanjar b. Ṭoḡānšāh (r. 1185-87) came to power in Nišāpur and were known as Mo'ayyediya (Jovayni, II, p.19; Juzjāni, 1, p. 274; Moḡammad-Ebrāhim, p. 43; Barthold, p. 346). The rule of Mo'ayyediya finally ended with the conquest of Nišāpur by Tekeš Ḳ̄'ārazmšāh in 1193 (Ebn al-Aṭir, XI, pp. 381-82; Jovayni, II, pp. 22-36; Šabānkāra'i, II, p. 137; Barthold, p. 345).

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