THE KURDISH PRINCIPALITY OF HAKKARIYA*
(14TH-15TH CENTURIES)

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The emergence in South Armenia of the Kurdish dynasties and principalities has not been the subject of special studies in Armenistics and Kurdology to date. This is conditioned probably by the limited circle of relevant sources and the lack of the appropriate methodological basis. A detailed analysis of the available materials in Armenian sources and their comparison with those of Arabic epigraphy preserved in South-Western Armenian areas, will shed a light on the chronology, genealogy, and the socio-political history of these Kurdish dynasties.

Several Kurdish fiefdoms can already be noticed in South Armenia in the 14th century A.D. Among these fiefdoms those of Baghesh-Bitlis (Rojak tribe), Van-Vostan (Hakkari tribe) and the smaller fiefdoms of Khizan, Hazo, Jermuk, Sparkert, Balu and other regions of which the Kurdish principality Hakkariya² inclusive-

* Long before his death Dr. Alexander Khachatrian had promised to submit the present article to Iran and the Caucasus, but his sudden, untimely demise prevented him from carrying out his pledge. Nevertheless, shortly thereafter, his widow gave me the unpublished scholarly papers of her late husband, in which the preliminary, in fact the working version of the article, was uncovered. Despite the obvious lacunae and shortcomings in composition, I proceed to edit and submit the piece for publication. Of course, had the author lived to complete this article, it would have been nothing less than perfect. Yet, even in its present form, the paper is a definite contribution to the study of the subject. In any event, I consider it a moral duty to publish this posthumous work of my old friend and a remarkable scholar. (Editor)


² The term “Hakkari” in the relevant literature is used to denote both a toponym and a tribal name (see Ibn Khallikan, Walayat al-a'yân wa 'abnà al-zaman, mu'jallad 'awwal (Beyrut 1979): 180-181; Ibn al-Athir, Al-kamil fi-l-tarih, mu'jallad tāsi', 'ashir (Beyrut, 1979): IX, 384, 385, X, 604; V. Minorsky, Studies in Caucasian History (London, 1953): 144,146; “Hakkari”, Encyclopedie de l'Isam, Nouvelle Edition (E.I.N.E.), vol. 3 (Paris-Leiden, 1971): 85; Dehkhoda (Loyat-nime-ye Dehxoda, s.a.): s.v. In the present article by the term “Hakkari” we designate the tribal name; to denote the name of the province, we have used the term “Hakkariya” as it is traditionally used in Arabic sources.
ing Van-Vostan (also known as Shamoyan, Shamboyan or Shamoyanids) occupies a distinctive place.

Until quite recent times, the dominant view held was that the founder of this principality in the area encompassing Van, Vostan, Julamerik and Hakkariya, was Asad ad-Din Kalani ibn Imad ad-Din (circa 80s-90s of the 14th century), whose son was the famous Amir Izz ad-Din Shir. The view received wide acceptance in literature, and mainly in the works of E. Zambaur, M.A. Zaki and others. This group of researchers exclusively depends on and reservedly accepts the Sharaf-Nameh’s data. Based on information preserved in this Chronicle, the mentioned authors have confounded Izz ad-Din Shir I (the founder of the Hakkariya fiefdom) with Izz ad-Din Shir II (Izz ad-Din ibn Asad ad-Din), who ruled in the last quarter of the 15th entury A.D. Consequently, Izz ad-Din Shir I and his immediate descendants are absent from the genealogical tree formulated by them. See the chart below (E. Zambaur):

\[ \text{The Rulers of Van, Vostan, Julamerik and Hakkariya} \]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Asad ad-Din Kalani ibn Imad ad-Din} \\
\mid \\
\text{Izz ad-Din Shir} \\
\mid \\
\text{Zahid-beg (907/1501-2 A.D.)} \\
\mid \\
\text{Malik-beg} \\
\mid \\
\text{Sayid Muhammad-beg} \\
\mid \\
\text{Zaynal Baha ad-Din Bayandar Bayazed Budaq Rustam Jakub} \\
\text{993-968 A.H.} \\
\end{array}
\]

In the light of data lately revealed from Armenian sources and in particular colophons of Armenian manuscripts, and as a result of the late Prof. Levon Khatchikian’s research, it is quite evident now that Yezdin Shir (Izz ad-Din Shir in Armenian transmission), the founder of the Hakkari Emirate, who is well known from the

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