
TEXTS AND MANUSCRIPTS: DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH

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FABRICATION OF LEGITIMATION IN THE KHOQAND KHĀNATE UNDER THE REIGN OF ‘UMAR-KHĀN (1225—1237 / 1810—1822): PALACE MANUSCRIPT OF “BAKHTIYĀR-NĀMA” DAQĀYIQĪ SAMARQANDĪ AS A SOURCE FOR THE LEGEND OF ĀLTŪN BĪSHĪK

Introduction [1]

The Khoqand Khānate (1121—1293 / 1709—1876) was established by representatives of the Mīng dynasty [2]. By the time of ‘Umar-khān’s reign it strengthened and increased its territory [3]. During his reign a search for the basis of legitimation of the Khānate was initiated; for this purpose a sacred geneology was “discovered” to provide written evidence of genealogical relations with the Tīmūrīds (771—911 / 1370—1506) via Bābur (899—937 / 1494—1530). These connections were justified by the legend of Āltūn Bīshīk (“The Golden Cra-

dle”, which also refers to the name of the legend’s protagonist), which was almost certainly fabricated [4]. Under the reign of ‘Umar-khān the legend of Āltūn Bīshīk appeared in written form for the first time, as far as we know. In my opinion, the basis for this invention was the “Bakhtiyār-nāma” (“[The Book About] Bakhtiyār”) of Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad Daqāyiqī Marwazī-Samarqandī (6—7 / 12th—13th c.) [5]. I will endeavor to demonstrate this point in the following article.

The Khoqand Khānate in 1121—1237 / 1709—1822

The Khoqand Khānate was established in 1121/1709 and was later abolished following the Russian conquest on 1293/1876. In the beginning of the 13/18th century, in conditions of political crisis of the Aṣṭarkhānid state Farghāna had separated into an independent Khānate governed first by the *kh^wāja* and then by the Mīng dynasty with the center at Khoqand [6]. The Khoqand Khānate included the Namangān, Khoqand, Andījān and Margilān provinces. Shāh-rukh (1121—1134 / 1709—1722) of the Uzbek clan Mīng was proclaimed the first ruler. In 1721/1722, Shāh-rukh was killed as a result of contentions between separate groupings of *amīrs*. Shāh-rukh’s successor was his son ‘Abd al-Raḥmān who attacked Khujand and Andījān, seized Samarqand, Kattaqūrgḥān and Jīzzak. During the rule of his brother ‘Abd al-Karīm (1146—1164 / 1734—1751), Osh was conquered. The following twenty years were marked by frequent changes of rulers. The Khoqand nobility pro-

claimed Nārbūta-bīk (1177—1213 / 1763—1798) the governor. He had managed to suppress the separatism of the governors of Chūst, Namangān and Khujand. Nārbūta-bīk sent his armies to Tāshkent but could not subdue the city. Under his rule the Khānate enjoyed relative political calmness probably a result of sustained economic development. The irrigating system was expanded and new *madrasas* were erected (including *Madrasa-yi Mīr*). Nārbūta-bīk was succeeded by his son ‘Ālīm-bīk / ‘Ālīm-khān (1213—1225 / 1798—1810) whose rule increased the political significance of Khoqand considerably. ‘Ālīm-khān formed a hired army consisting of high-lander Tājiks that became a buttress in his struggle for the centralization of power. He subordinated Tāshkent and Farghāna and made numerous campaigns in Ura-Tube. As a result of a conspiracy, ‘Ālīm-khān was killed and his brother ‘Umar-khān was installed on the throne.