

آنکه بنا بر وفور توجهات بی پایان در باره عالی جاه صداقت و اخلاص پناه ابدال خان امیر

Text
L1

بختیار ضبط چهار محال را بتغییر عسکر خان بیگ از ابتدای بهار هه هذالسنه میمون

L2

ایت فیل مشارالیه شفقت

و مرحمت و مبلغ مواجبی که در وجه ضابطان سابق محال مزبوره مقرر بود در باره او

L3

برقرار فرمودیم که از روس نهایت

اهتمام بلوازم و مراسم امور متعلقه بخود قیام و اقدام داشته در جمع آوردن و استمالت

L4

و دلجوئی رعایا

و آباد ساختن محال خراب مساعی جمیله نظهور رسانیده نوعی سلوک نماید که

L5

تمام رعیت از حسن

امراضی و شاکر باشند کلا نتر و کدخدایان و رعایای چهار محال عالی جاه ابدال

L6

خان را ضابطا

خود دانسته از صلاح و سخن مقررین بحساب او تجاوز نمایند مستوعیان و

L7

کتاب سرکار عالی

صورت حکم را در دفاتر خلود ثبت و ضبط نموده در عهده شناسند تحریراً

L8

فی ۷ شهر رمضان سنه ۱۱۹۷

بمختم نصرت و فیروزیم خدا داد است
که به بندگیش بست هر که آزاد است ۱۱۹۵

Seal

Hukm, 7 Ramaẓān. 1167/28 June 1754¹

[Seal and tughra are missing . . . has been issued that:²]

Text: On account of the endless abundance of favorable attentions paid [by us, i.e., Āzād Khan] to the noble refuge of Truth and Devotion, Abdāl Khan, the Amīr of the Bakhtiyārī³; we have bestowed and granted the position of žābit⁴ of Chahār Maḥall to him in place of Askar Khan Baig from the beginning of the nine-month period of this auspicious Year of the Dog,⁵ and we have established for him the sum of wages which was established in favor of the former žābits of the aforementioned districts so that he, with utmost zeal diligently performing the obligations and duties concerned with the affairs dependent upon him and displaying excellent effort in the gathering together of, winning over and showing compassion to, the peasants and in bringing the districts in ruin to a flourishing state, may follow such a course that from his goodness all the peasants are content and thankful. Let the kalāntar, kadkhudās, and the peasants of Chahār Maḥall recognize His Excellency, Abdāl Khan, as their žābit; and let them not go beyond the bounds of his prudent decisions and words, which are conjoined to what is correct.

Let the mustaufīs and scribes of the exalted Government register and record the transcript of this Hukm in the eternal registers, and consider it part of their responsibility. Written on the seventh of the Month of Ramaẓān in the Year 1167/28 June 1754.

Seal:

My triumph and victory over enemies is God-given. Whoever is free girt up his loins to serve it. 1165/1752.

I. NOTES

¹This Hukm was issued with Document 4.

²Missing, see below II, The Document.

³ Abdāl Khan, the Amīr of the Bakhtiyārī. The reference to Abdāl Khan as "Amīr-i Bakhtiyārī" is vague: the use of "amīr" for a military leader would represent obsolete usage; "amīr" could be a synonym for "hākīm," governor, the title used in Document 4 and presumably would have been used here if Abdāl were governor of Bakhtiyārī. Furthermore, Document 4 makes no mention of Abdāl as governor of Bakhtiyārī and appoints him to the governorship of Pusht Kūh. Consequently, "amīr" probably means notable, or even "the" Leader of the Bakhtiyārī--thus, making a distinction between the governor of the province and the one responsible for the nomadic tribes.

⁴ Zābiṭ of Chahār Mahāll. Zābiṭ, here, means tax collector, and Chahār Mahāll comprises those four rich agricultural districts of Lār, Kiyār, Mizdij, and Gandūmān west of Isfahan and bordering on the eastern edge of the Bakhtiyārī.

⁵ The Year of the Dog, 1754 in the 12 Year Turkic cycle.

II. THE DOCUMENT (Sardār As'ad collection)

This Hukm was also issued by Āzād Khan Afghan, and it measures ca. 33.8 x 19.6 cm. The top margin of ca. 3.8 cm. across with another 2.5 cm. below on the right is missing; this missing portion follows the crease line. It may have been purposely removed as a talisman for it included the ṭughrā--"Hukm muta^c shud"? --and probably "al-Mulk Allah al-ta^cālā" written at the top. (These are the ṭughrā and the inscription on the companion document, Document 4.) Possibly, too, since the top right of the document receives the most wear when the document is folded and unfolded this corner may simply have been separated from the page through use. This Hukm is sealed by Āzād Khan's oval seal (Rabino, Album, Pl 50 #30).

III. SIGNIFICANCE

1. Again, could Āzād Khan actually place Abdāl in office as žābit of Chahār Maḥāll, far from Āzād's center of power to the northwest? Presumably, Abdāl had given Āzād some indication, and possibly the appointment was contingent on Āzād's success. Or, was Abdāl trying to threaten Karīm Khan, who, two years later in 1169/1755, awards Abdāl a Farḡān extolling his virtues and his support?

2. Chahār Maḥāll was a zone of Bakhtiyārī influence and by appointing a Bakhtiyārī leader as administrator his interest as such would possibly curb tribal depredations. From yet another document (see Document 7, 1173/1759), Abdāl is identified as an important landlord in Chahār Maḥāll, and probably he was at the time Āzād Khan appoints him žābit.

3. The text of this Hukm is yet another example of the traditional Irano-Shi'ī ideology: good and just government and order results in a contented peasantry and "in bringing the districts in ruin to a flourishing state."