

فرمان عالی شد

Tughra

آنکه عالی جاه رفیع جایگاه اخلاص و عقیدت آگاه ابدال خان و همه [؟] ریش سفیدان

Text
L1

و خوانین و سرکردگان

ایل جلیل بختیار و توجهات خاطر خطیر عالی امیدوار بوده باشد که چون

L2

منظور نظر عالی آن است که رعایا و زارعین بلده و الطایف قم در مهد امن و امان

غنوده مرفه الحال بلوازم شغل رعیتی اشتغال نمایند لهذا میباید بوصول فرمان عالی

L3

و حصول آگاهی بر مضمون و محتویات قدغن لازم به عموم طوایف بختیار شده

که بوجه احسن و طریق مستحسن با عموم رعایا و زارعین بلده و الطایف قم سلوک

L4

داشته پیرامون محصول رعایا نگردیده در دس و راه زنی را

موقوف دارند که چنانچه ظاهر شود که ضرر محصولات رعایا رسانیده اند و یا آنکه

L5

احدس اراده اعاده کرده بناس دردی

گزارده است مواخذه لازم از ایشان خواهدیم فرمود و متضافه بهایجاه اخلاص و

L6

عقیدت آگاه محمد علی خان حاکم قم فرموده ایم که

۱. L7 چنانچه دزدی و راهزنی اراده اعاده کرده ملاحظه [؟] نماید سارقین را گرفته

تنبيه و چگونگی را عرض نماید و در عهده شناسند تحریراً

۱۱۸۱ سنه شهر محرم الحرام ۱۱۸۱ L8

یا من هو من رجاء کریم ۱۱۷

Seal

Farman, Muharram 1181/May 1767

Tughrā: The exalted order has been issued.

Text: That he of high station and eminence, faithful and loyal, Abdāl Khan,¹ and all the elders, khans, and commanders of the illustrious confederation [īl] of the Bakhtiyārī, being hopeful of the favors of our great and exalted nature, should know that since the aim of our exalted attention is that the peasants and cultivators of the town and district of Qum,² resting in the cradle of peace and security should, in a state of ease, occupy themselves with what is needful for their occupations as subjects. It is, therefore, necessary, on receipt of the exalted Farman and on becoming aware of its subject and contents, that they should give the necessary orders to the whole of the tribe of the Bakhtiyārī that, they are to behave towards all the peasants and cultivators of the town and region of Qum in the best way and a laudable manner, that they are to stop stealing and committing highway robbery. For, if it comes to light that harm has come to the produce of the peasants, or if a single person, wishing to return to the old ways, begins stealing or committing highway robbery, we will take the necessary retribution from them.

We have verbally commanded him of high rank, the loyal and faithful, Muhammad 'Alī Khan, Governor of Qum,³ if a thief or bandit, wishing to return to old ways, does so, he is to catch and punish the thieves, and report the circumstances.

Let them consider this part of their responsibility. Written in the Month of Muharram, the Year 1181/May 1767.

He, to whom we carry over supplication, is generous. 1177/1757.

I. NOTES

- ¹ Abdāl Khan. See Significance below.
- ² Qum. The Bakhtiyārī had been resettled in this region.
- ³ Muhammad ʿAlī Khan, Governor of Qum, Unident.

II. THE DOCUMENT (Sardār Asʿad collection)

This Farman, sealed with Karīm Khan Zand's square seal (Rabino, Album, Pl. 50, #32), measures ca. 29.8 x 20.2 cm. The shikastah script is centered on the page with a 5 cm margin on the right and with the writing in each line extending well up the left margin. The dorse bears seven signatures and five seals (unread).

This document seems to deviate from the standard (See, Busse), because it lacks the invocation to God. The top margin--where it would have been located--may have been removed. Many of the subsequent Zand documents lack both a seal or an inscribed invocation; consequently, it may have been standard chancellery procedure to omit the invocation but for the most formal documents. This Farman begins with the tughra, and then immediately identifies the recipient (narratio); and then the command to maintain control over the Bakhtiyārī that had been resettled in Qum (dispositio).

III. SIGNIFICANCE

1.. This document implies that Abdāl Khan is the pre-eminent leader of the whole of the Bakhtiyārī; although, it is not at all clear that he is governor of the Bakhtiyārī district. In earlier documents he is identified as head of the Haft Lang only; therefore, Karīm Khan Zand may have been administering the Bakhtiyārī--both Chahār Lang (as punishment to ʿAlī Mardān's moiety?) and Haft

Lang--indirectly, as the Qājars were to do after 1864, through a single head. In doing so, the Central Government would have in effect recognized a single confederation.

2. Corroboration is found here for Zand resettlement of recalcitrant Bakhtiyārī in the Qum district and the problems this created.

3. Even though the re-located Bakhtiyārī are distant from their original province, its leader is responsible for their good order.