

“KITAB-I DIYARBAKRIYYA” IS A MAJOR SOURCE ON THE TIMURID PERIOD

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Annotation:

This article gives information about known historian Abu Bakr Tihrani-e and his historical essay “Kitab-i Diyarbakriyya”, also translations and editions of this source. This historical work is one of the main sources of the reign of the Sultan and Abu Said Mirza in the Timurid state and his relations with Ak Koyunlu and Kara Koyunlu Turkmens.

Keywords and phrases: Kitabi Diyarbakriya, Shahrukh Mirza, Khorasan, Ak Koyunlu, Kara Koyunlu, Sultan Abu Said Mirza, Timurid state.

The role of written sources in the study of the history of Timurids is incomparable. Historical sources dedicated to various periods of the history of this dynasty have reached today, and based on the information provided in them, it is possible to get enough information about the history and culture, economy, and politics of the Timurid state. The work "Matla'i sa'dayn majmai Bahrain" by Abdurazzoq Samarkand can be cited as the main source containing the events of the history of the Timurid state from 1405 to 1470. The part of this source covering the period from 1429/1430 to 1470 is extremely valuable. For our research, the part of the source where the historical events of 1451-1470 (mainly the reign of Sultan Abu Said Mirza) are mentioned is important. It is possible to add Abu Bakr Tihrani's "Kitabi Diyarbakriya" to the sources of this period.

"Kitabi Diyarbakriya" is considered a work dedicated to the history of the Aqqoyunli dynasty. It was started to be written in 875/1470-1471 by order of Uzun Hasanbek¹ and was completed after his death. The work's only surviving (defective) manuscript of the work dates back to 876/1472.

The author of this work in Persian was Abu Bakr al-Tikhrani al-Isfahani (? - 1478), and only the information about Abu Bakr's life that he informed about himself in his book has reached us. He was born in the village of Tikhran in Isfahan and lived in Isfahan in 1447².

When Shahrukh Mirza died (March 14, 1447), Abu Bakr Tihrani was also at his residence in Rai. Many famous people of Isfahan were taken to Rai by Shahrukh, who supported the rebellion of his grandson, prince Sultan Muhammad. Later, he returned to Isfahan and when the city was occupied by Jahanshah Qara Qoyunlu in 1452, his son Muhammad served as a munshi in the palace of Mirza³.

¹ The ruler of the state Ak Koyunlu in 1457-1478.

² Стори Ч. А. Персидская литература. Библиографический обзор. В трех частях. Перевел с английского, переработал и дополнил Ю. Э. Брегель. Часть II. Ответственный редактор Ю.Э. Борщевский. – Москва: Главная редакция восточной литературы, 1972. – 846-847 с.

³ Kitab-i Diyarbakriyya. Ak-Koyunlular tarihi. — Abu Bakr-i Tihrani. Yayınlayanlar: Necati Lugal, Faruk Sümer. Giriş ve notlar: Faruk Sümer. I-II Cüz. Türk Tarih Kurumu yayınları: III Seri, № 7–7a. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1962–1964, 7 - sayfa.

In 1457, Abu Bakr Tihrani took part in Muhammad Mirza's march to Domgan, conducted negotiations, and persuaded the city to surrender without a fight. In 1458, Abu Bakr accompanied Tihra in Jahanshah's march towards Khurasan. After the capture of Herat, along with reading lectures in the Ghiyosiya madrasa, he began to write its history according to Jahanshah's order. In the same year, a peace treaty between Jahanshah and Sultan Abu Said was signed by Abu Bakr Tihrani. In 1462, he was in the army of Mohammad Mirza Wazir Salman during the rebellion of Pir Budak in Persia. Later, we do not know whether Jahanshah participated in the fight between Qara Qoyunlu and Uzun Hasan Aq Qoyunlu or not. It is certain that he was living in Qazvin at the time of the battle between Sultan Abu Said and Uzun Hasan in 1469. After that, Uzun Hasan invited Abu Bakr Tihrani, who was living in Qazvin, to his residence in Ardebil. Uzun must have served as a munshi in Hasan's palace. It can be mentioned that several documents signed by Abu Bakr under the name of Uzun Hasan during his service in this position have been preserved; The inscription on the appointment of Yadgor Muhammad Mirza as the ruler of Khurasan, the letters in Arabic to Qaytbay, the Sultan of Egypt, and to the son of Pir Ahmed Qaraman. The exact date of Abu Bakr Tihrani's death is unknown, but it is known that he was alive when Uzun Hasan died in 1478.

Although "Kitabi Diyarbakriya" was written according to the decree of Uzun Hasan, it is a book dedicated to the history of the Aq Qoyunlu dynasty, but it contains valuable information about the years of the reign of Jahanshah Qara Qoyunlu and the period from the death of Shahrukh Mirza to the accession of Sultan Husayn Mirza.

Abu Bakr Tihrani was an enlightened, fluent and articulate person of his time. The information provided by him is so valuable that the only manuscript (defective) of this work has survived and has been translated into several languages. The last parts of the work, which did not arrive in 1472-1474, can be found through the compilation presented in the book "Ahsan al-Tawarikh" by Hasanbek Rumi.

After the introduction, the work gives a genealogy from Adam to Uzun Hasan. After that, information about Kara Usmonbek and his sons and grandsons is given, thus the history of the Akko'yonli family begins. The main content of the work is described more fully from the events of 1389. The events of 1408–1419, 1424–1428, and 1429–1433 are almost omitted in the book, and the events of 1441–1444 and 1446–1450 are given very briefly. Information about historical events after 1450 is given in full⁴.

The only known manuscript of the work is preserved in the private library of Muhammad Aminbey in Basra, Iraq⁵. Faruq Sumer tried to bring the manuscript to Ankara in the 1950s and achieved his goal. Due to the uniqueness and valuable source of the manuscript, Faruq Sumer and Nejati Lugal together published it in two volumes in Ankara⁶.

⁴ Шукуров Ш. М. Великие Комнины и Восток (1204–1461). Под редакцией С. П. Карпова. Серия "Византийская библиотека. Исследования." Санкт–Петербург: Издательство Алетейя, 2001. – С. 33.

⁵ В История Ирана: (10) Ак-Коюнлу, стр. 847 // Ч. А. Стори. — Персидская литература. Библиографический обзор. В трех частях. Перевел с английского, переработал и дополнил Ю. Э. Брегель. Часть II. Ответственный редактор Ю.Э. Борщевский. – Москва: Главная редакция восточной литературы, 1972.

⁶ Kitab-i Diyarbakriyya. Ak-Koyunlular tarihi. — Abu Bakr-i Tihrani. Yayınlayanlar: Necati Lugal, Faruk Sümer. Giriş ve notlar: Faruk Sümer. I–II Cüz. Türk Tarih Kurumu yayınları: III Seri, № 7–7a. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1962–1964, 285–358 sayfa.

The edition prepared for publication by Faruq Sumer and Nejati Lugal was also reprinted in one volume in Iran⁷. Translations of the work into Turkish have been published in Turkey⁸.

R.M. Shukurova's translation of this work into Azerbaijani with a preface and comments were published in 1998 in Azerbaijan. In addition, translations of the book in Turkmenistan⁹, and Iraq¹⁰, and also published in Georgia¹¹.

This work of Abu Bakr Tihrani was highly appreciated by Khondamir, the historian of the Timurid era. Khondamir mentions the name of Abu Bakr Tihrani with respect and emphasizes that he did not have the opportunity to use his work.

"History of Diyarbakriya" contains the historical events of Western Iran and Khorasan from 1447 to 1470. After the death of Shahrukh Mirza, the struggle between Timurids for the throne of Herat, the victory of Sultan Abu Said in these battles, the history of Sultan Abu Said's relationship with Jahanshah Qara Qoyunlu and Uzun Hasan Aq Qoyunlu, the help given by Uzun Hasan in the occupation of the throne of Khorasan by Yadgor Muhammad Mirza and other information can be cited.

In conclusion, it can be said that Abu Bakr Tihrani's "History of Diyarbakriya" serves as one of the main sources in illuminating the period of the Timurid state from the middle of the 15th century to the 70s of the 15th century, as well as the history of relations between the Timurids and the Qara Qoyunlu and Aq Qoyunlu.

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⁷ Kitāb-i Diyārbakriya: tāriḥ-i Ḥasan Baīk Āq Qūyunlū wa aslāf-i ū wa ānčih bidān muta'alliq ast az tawāriḥ-i Qarā Qūyunlū wa Čaġatāy. Cüz 1–2 Kitāb-i Diyārbakriyya. — Abū-Bakr Ṭīhrānī. Bi-tašḥīḥ wa ihtimām-i Fārūk Sūmihr wa Niġāṭi Lūġāl. Tihrān: Kitābhāna-i Ṭahūrī 1356 h.š. (1977). (fars.)

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¹⁰ Kitāb-i Diyārbakriyya. — Abū-Bakr Ṭīhrānī; Selāheddin Aštī. Slēmanī: Šivan Press, 2007, 604 s. (sorani.)

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