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Robert McChesney



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¹ The Persian *nasab-nâmah*, presented here in facsimile and translation with a thorough introduction and notes, is from the Qarshi Museum in Uzbekistan. The document was drafted in 1289/1866 to support the authority of a certain Mulla Karim Birdi Khwâjah Shaykh to collect the “voluntary tax” (*nadhr*) levied on herds in the Farghana Valley. His authority, as understood in the mid-nineteenth century, was based on his ‘Alid descent and then on his claimed descent, as attested by the genealogy, from a number of saints important to the nomadic herders of the region. The authors demonstrate how the genealogy is a kind of matrix of ‘Alid narratives including the themes articulated in the popular *maqtal-nâmahs*, *Abu-Muslim-nâmahs*, and the lore surrounding the name of Muhammad b. al-Hanafiyya, narratives as embedded in the worldview of nominally Sunni inhabitants of Central Asia as in the minds of their Shifiî contemporaries in Iran. The authors relate the production of this *nasab-nâmah* to the ongoing struggles of the Khanate of Khokand to assert its fiscal claims among the nomads living within its jurisdiction.

INDEX

Thèmes : 4.2.1. Safavides et Qâjârs

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