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## Sadat-e Hezar Jarib The Shiite Rulers in Eastern Mazandaran

By: Sayyed Mohammad Emadi Haeri

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No. 1182, Second Floor, Farvardin Building, Between Daneshgah and Aburayhan

Streets, Enqelab Avenue, Tehran, Postal code: 1315693519 - Iran

Tel.: +98 21 66490612, Fax: +98 21 66406258

ayenemiras@mirasmaktoob.ir http://www.mirasmaktoob.ir http://www.islamicdatabank.com

http://www.srlst.com

http://www.islamicdatabank.com/farsi/f default.asp



## **Foreword**

Local histories are among historical texts, examples of which are known in the Persian and Arabic languages. Usually, the local histories, provide brief information about some events, celebrities in science, and, local rulers, which cannot be found elsewhere. A significant example of a local history in the Arabic language is the extensive work by Khatib-e Baghdadi (fifth century AH) known as The History of Baghdad (تاريخ بغداد) which actually goes beyond the history of a city and changes into a biographical work on distinguished men. Similarly, there are significant old surviving works of this kind in the Persian language, some of which are translated from Arabic, while some others are originally written in Persian. Examples are: The History of Bukhara (تاريخ بخارا) first written in Arabic, in the fourth century, then translated and summarized into Persian in the sixth and seventh centuries; The History of Qom (تاريخ قم ) first written in Arabic in the fourth century, and translated in Persian in the ninth century: The History of Sistan (تاريخ سيستان ) , from the fifth century onward; The History of Beyhaq (تاريخ بيهق ) from the sixth century onward, etc.

Regarding a local written history, Mazandaran should be considered a fortunate region on which some old works are available: The History of Tabarestan (تاریخ طبرستان) by Ibn Esfandiyar, from the seventh century; The History of Rooyan (تاریخ رویان) by Awliya Allah Amuli, from the eighth century; The History of Tabarestan, Rooyan and Mazandaran (تاریخ طبرستان و رویان و مازندران), by Mir Zahir al-Din Marashi, from the ninth century; The History of Mazandaran (تاریخ طبرستان و رویان و مازندران)

by Sheikh Ali Gilani, from the eleventh century. And, of course, we are aware of some lost works, such as *The History of Tabarerstan (تاریخ طبرستان)* by Khwaja Ali Rooyani which has been a source of Mir Zahir al-Din Marashi. In recent century, some enthusiastic scholars compiled works on the history of Mazandaran among whom we can name H.L. Rabino, Ardeshir Barzgar, Ismail Mahjoori, and particularly, Manoochehr Sootoodeh for his admirable field study, published as *Az Astara to Estarbad الر أستار اتا* in 8 volumes, 1349 AHS and after.

Nevertheless, writing the history of this ancient region, its cities and districts in an academic and methodological fashion is beyond an individual's ability and demands the cooperation of a group of expert scholars, extensive library and field studies, beside financial support from institutes and foundations. However, in writing a critical history of a region, we should inevitably walk step by step and prepare the materials for a comprehensive study through researches confined to a specific subject.

"Sadat-e Hezar Jarib" in the Timurid historical literature is a title which refers to a line of local rulers in Eastern Mazandaran. The dynasty was founded by Mir Sayyed Emad al-Din (d. 803 AH) through a public-religious uprising, at the last decades of Ilkhanid period.

The paper is in fact a long critical report on the uprising of Sayyed Emad al-Din, his and his sons' and descendants' governments in the region of Hezar Jarib and Qoomes. Putting together the scattered facts, it tries to provide a precise account on the up and down of the Sadat-e Hezar Jabir's sovereignty. Through critically reviewing both the written and oral reports, the author attempts to shed light on the history of an autonomous Shiite dynasty, and, illustrate the course in which the historical narratives and assumptions in some instances are

changed to myths,. Parts one, two, four and five of the paper talk on the background and attitudes of the Sadats' uprising in Eastern Iran, the geographical situation and historical background of the Hezar Jarib region, in the later Ilkhanid period, as well as Mir Emad al-Din's ancestors, descendents and tomb. These parts, also, offer the reader a picture from the peripheral discussions of the original subject, by providing marginal pieces of information. However, the central part of the paper is the third one which, first, deals with Emad al-Din's and his son's governments, and continues to introduce the two essential ruling branches of his family.

There are three annexes: 1) a disguise in the historical sources of the Timurid period; 2) Sadat-e Emadi and Husaini attribution; 3) Hezar Jarib and the surrounding areas: boundaries, rural districts, counties and villages.

## S. M. Emadi Haeri