

N. Governor of Samarcand, Ahmad of Farghána, Yahya of Táshkand, and Ilyás of Herat. On the death of Núh in 192 H.=807 A.D., Ahmad succeeded to the Government of Samarcand, and on his death, 250 H.=864 A.D., his son, Nasr, succeeded, and, on the first of *Ramazán* in the following year, was appointed Viceroy of the newly-constituted province of Máwaránahar, or Transoxiana, by the Khalif Wáthic Billah.

In the revolt of Yakúb bin Laith of Sístán, Nasr, aided by his younger brother, Ismàíl, recovered Bukhárá from the rebel, and in *Ramazán* 260 H.=873 A.D. appointed him its Governor. By this victory Nasr established his authority over all Turkistán, and in the same year received, from the Khálif Muwaffic Billah, a new patent, appointing him Viceroy of Máwaránahar, from the Jyhon or Oxus to Acsá-i-Bilád-i-Mashric or "The extreme cities of the East."

The two brothers after this quarrelled, and each had the *Khutba*="Friday prayer for the reigning family," read in his own name, and Ismàíl further withheld the revenue of 50,000 *diram* due yearly from Bukhárá. On this Nasr at Samarcand summoned his brothers from Farghána and Táshkand with their troops and Turk levies, and marched against Bukhárá in *Rajab* 272 H.=winter of 885-6 A.D., but, before coming into collision, they were reconciled by Harithma, who had crossed the Oxus on the ice to the aid of Ismàíl, and now persuaded them all to return to their respective Governments; a step they were the more ready to adopt on account of the severe losses they had experienced in men and cattle from the intense cold and scarcity of supplies.

Three years later, however, the brothers again broke into hostilities, and Nasr, marching against Bukhárá, was met and defeated by Ismàíl at Dih Wárz on Tuesday, 15th *Jamádi Akhir* 275 H.=888 A.D. On this occasion Nasr fell into the hands of Ismàíl who, treating him with an unlooked-for deference and respect, begged his speedy return to his own Government, lest the people hearing of his disaster should rise in revolt against him. Nasr lauded his brother's magnanimity in tears, and avowing that he had expelled from his heart all feeling of animosity against him, hastened back to Samarcand, where he died four years later.

Ismàíl now advanced and took possession of Samarcand, and from that as a base prosecuted a *ghazát*="crescentade" on the Turk frontier. In 280 H.=893 A.D. he captured and annexed Taráz=Turkistán, a populous and wealthy frontier city that had long been frequented as a mart of exchange by Turk, Christian, Muhammadan, and Chinese merchants, and, exacting a general profession of Islám converted its great *Kalisiya*="Christian Church" into a "Friday Mosque," in which he had the *khutba* read in the name of the Khalif M'utasid Billah, and finally returned to Bukhárá laden with a rich plunder. Whilst he was engaged in this "meritorious" war for the diffusion of Islám, Ismàíl, in *Muharram* 280 H., received a patent from the Khálif confirming him as Viceroy in succession to Nasr. Its arrival was opportune, and stimulated the Muslims to the successes above indicated, and to less successful efforts to force the creed across the passes to the eastward; in which direction the way for the Faith was prepared by the persuasive eloquence of their merchant Missionaries years before its forcible establishment at the point of the sword.

Seven years of active religious propagandism on the Turkistán frontiers had elapsed, when Ismàíl, who during this period had acquired an undefined sort of authority over the States of Káshghar, was involved in the war against 'Umro Laith, whom, after a short and decisive campaign, he captured at Balkh, 288 H.=901 A.D., and two years later sent prisoner to Baghdat. For this service he received from the Khalif M'utasid Billah a fresh patent of sovereignty over the countries of Khurásán to the frontiers of Sind and Hind, and Máwaránahar and Turkistán. Following this he prosecuted a campaign in Tabaristán, and annexing the province returned to Bukhárá, 291 H.=903-4 A.D., the sovereign of an empire that extended from Ray, Cazwín, Ispahan, and Shiráz on the west to the vallies of the Tián-shán on the