
Headship of Āstān-e Shāh Chérāgh in Documents and Manuscripts (According to the Manuscripts of Mirza Ahmad Motavalli Bashi's Poetry Book, Endowment Letter of Habibaullah Sharifi, Sādāt Dashtaki Testimonies Scroll)

Mohammad Reza Ziya¹ Seyed Ahmad Hosseini Kazerooni² Seyed Jafar Hamidi³

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Abstract

Mirza Ahmad Motavalli Bashi, nicknamed Roshan, is one of the unknown poets of the Qājār era, who for some time was in charge of the shrine of Ahmad ibn Mūsá al-Kāzīm Shāh Chérāgh (as). The importance of this holy shrine and, consequently, the position of the headship of this Āstān (threshold) has been claimed by many people throughout history. Sometimes, people appointed by kings have seized it by force. In the Safavid and Qājār eras, this position was held by the Hosseini Sharifi family, a descendant of Allama Mirsharif Jorjani. In the manuscript of Mirza Ahmad Motavalli Bashi poetry book, there are poems that express his disagreement with the person or persons over the position of the guardian of the threshold of Ḥaḍrat Shāh Chérāgh (as). This article is descriptive, analytical and based on the manuscript of Mirza Ahmad Motavalli Bashi's poetry collection has examined the issue of endowment letter of Mirza Habibaullah Sharifi, the head of Āstān in the Safavid era, and the testimonies scroll of Sādāt Dashtaki, as the claimants of the headship of this Āstān, which is registered and kept in the library of Shāh Chérāgh (as). This article also explains and concludes the hidden aspects of this dispute, including the beginning and how the dispute arose and the historical course of the appointment of each of the trustees from the Safavid era to the first Pahlavi period.

Key words: Āstān-e Shāh Chérāgh (as), Motavalli Bashi, Sharifi family.

1. PhD student in Persian language and literature, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr Branch, Bushehr, Iran. ZiyaMohammadReza@Gmail.Com

2. Professor of Persian Language and Literature, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr Branch, Bushehr, Iran, (Corresponding Author). Sahrkazerooni@yahoo.com

3. Professor of Persian Language and Literature, Islamic Azad University, Bushehr Branch, Bushehr, Iran. jafarhamidi@yahoo.com
