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Hindal Mirza

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Hindāl Mīrzā

Abū l-Nāṣir Muḥammad **Hindāl Mīrzā** was the fourth and youngest surviving son of the Mughal emperor Zaḥīr al-Dīn Muḥammad Bābur (r. 932–7/1526–30), the founder of the dynasty in India. Born in Kabul on 2 Rabīʿ I 925/4 March 1519 to Dildār Bīgam, he was named Hindāl (lit., the taking of Hind) when the news of his birth reached Bābur during a military expedition to Hindustan and was taken as a favourable omen. Hindāl, with his sister Gulbadan Bīgam (d. 1011/1603), was adopted and raised by his father's senior wife, Māham Bīgam (d. 939/1533), the influential mother of Bābur's eldest son and eventual successor, Humāyūn (r. 937–47/1530–40 and 962–3/1555–6 over parts of India and Afghanistan); the rest of Māham's progeny had died in childhood. After Humāyūn's accession to the throne, Hindāl was, despite his young age, put in charge of several appanages in the nascent empire. An account of the elaborate festivities held sometime around Ṣafar 941/August 1534 to commemorate his wedding to Sulṭānam Bīgam has been furnished by the contemporary historian

Khādamīr (d. c.942/1535–6) in his work the *Qānūn-i Humāyūnī*.

During his tumultuous life, Humāyūn's relations with his half-brothers Kāmran (d. 964/1557), 'Askarī (d. 965/1558), and Hindāl went through ups and downs, because each harboured claims to sovereignty. Hindāl threw off his allegiance to Humāyūn more than once, on one occasion setting himself up as ruler in the capital, Agra, where he had the *khutba* (Friday sermon) read in his own name. Efforts to reason with him failed, and he had the official envoy put to death on charges of treason. Later, he refused to obey imperial summons to join the Mughal forces and the latter suffered an ignominious defeat against the resurgent Afghans at the battle of Chausa (946/1539). The following year, Hindāl led the vanguard of the army against the Afghans at the battle of Kannauj, where Humāyūn's men were defeated. Shortly afterwards, Hindāl's disapproval of his brother's decision to wed the much younger Ḥamīda Bānū Bīgam (later the emperor Akbar's mother, d. 1013/1604) once again caused them to drift apart. The promise that Hindāl would receive a third of Hindustan upon