

İdris-i Bitlisi

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ADDE YAYIMLANDIKTAN
ARA GELEN DOKÜMAN

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I

The Realm of Generation and Decay

Bidlisi in Iran, 1457-1502

During the first forty years of İdris Bidlisi's life, Persian lands suffered monumental geopolitical strains that profoundly affected his personal outlook and professional inclinations. During the period between his birth in 1457 and the end of the fifteenth century, Bidlisi's homeland in western Iran witnessed the rise and fall of a major Turkmen dynasty, the Bayandur clan of the Aqqyunlu confederation, the imperial aspirations of which were shortly followed within a matter of decades by a complete descent into chaos and disorder. The resounding success and subsequent unraveling of the Aqqyunlu experiment shaped the educational, social, and professional opportunities available to Bidlisi. Drawn by the cultural splendence of the recently ascendant Aqqyunlu court, Bidlisi decided to enter sultanic service as a young man. His professional rise within the court seemed to reflect inversely the more general devolution of Aqqyunlu fortunes in the waning decades of the fifteenth century. By the late 1480s, as Bidlisi entered middle age, he had attained one of the highest offices of state, even as the political instability resulting from years of dynastic conflict and civil war brought the Aqqyunlu polity to the brink of destruction.

Despite this general context, the immediate circumstances of Bidlisi's birth and childhood would seem to have foreshadowed a far more reclusive life, somewhat insulated from political concerns and dominated by learned pursuits and mystical contemplation. Bidlisi was born into a family of scholars with close ties to one of the most important messianic-Sufi movements of the fifteenth century. Bidlisi's father, Husam al-Din 'Ali, was a disciple of the Sufi master and messianic figure Muhammad

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**The Crisis of Kingship in Late
Medieval Islam**

*Persian Emigres and the Making of
Ottoman Sovereignty*

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