

**The *Dīwān-i Qā'imīyyāt* – Aspects of Mongol-Nizārī Contacts in the Light of a Newly
Discovered Literary Source**

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It is a well known fact, that the Mongol Empire played a decisive role in the collapse of the Nizārī State. As a consequence, the memories of Mongol-Nizārī contacts in later Classical Persian historical texts preserved a rather negative image where the Nizārīs and Mongol forces are represented as antagonistic adversaries of each other.

In the light of the *Dīwān-i Qā'imīyyāt*, however, early Nizārī-Mongol contacts need to be re-evaluated. Besides hymns in praise of the Qiyama and different Nizārī Imams the *Dīwān-i Qā'imīyyāt* preserved remarkable historical material relating to the Mongol-Nizārī contacts before 1240.

Some qasīdas mention the lapse of the Khwarizmians and the arrival of the 'Tatars' and celebrate the Mongol victory over the Khwārizmians mentioning various cities which fell into Nizārī hands due to the Mongol interference.

Other qasīdas go further by praising Jinghiz Khān for his magnanimity enhancing that it was because of this generous behaviour that the Mongols firmly established their rule. The tale of the 'Jingiz-i thānī' is another example of early Nizārī-Mongol contacts in Central Asia. Due to the fact that in the *Dīwān-i Qā'imīyyāt* there is no hint to the ultimate fall of the Nizārīs at the hands of the Ilkhanid Mongols it is almost probable that the bulk of this poetical work had been composed before 1256.

Since the *Dīwān-i Qā'imīyyāt* preserved material about the first Mongol conquest of 1219-1223, this collection can be characterized as an example of a rather positive Nizārī attitude towards Mongol rule reflecting the political and territorial advantages the Nizārīs benefited from the first Mongols campaigns.