

*Original article*

THE COINAGE OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES DURING THE ZIYĀRĪD PERIOD

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**Abstract**

*This search aims to study three dinars of the rebel against Ziyārīd; the first dīnār is minted in Tabaristān? 323 H., the second is minted in al-Karj? 323H. and these two dinars are in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid, and the third is dīnār minted in Sāri 341H., in the name of Al-Hassan b Firūzan. These dīnārs were never studied before.*

**Keywords:** *Dinars, Tabaristan, al-Karj, Bakran, Firuzan.*

**1. Introduction**

This search presents the coinage of the revolutionaries against the Ziyarid, the first one is Bakran b Khurshid, who was a general in the service of the Ziyarid ruler Mardawij b. Ziyar, there are two dīnārs, in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid, the first minted in Tabaristān in 323 H., and the second minted in al-Karj in 323 H. As for as the second name is Al-Hassan b. Firūzan, who refused Washmgīr's

obedience, and announced his obedience to the Sāmānid governor Nasr b. Ahmad. In 336 H. / 947 AD. Rukn al- Dawlah defeated Washmgīr, and then Al-Hassan b. Firūzan announced his obedience to Rukn al-Dawlah, where the last appointed him in Jurjān in 341 H. / 952 AD. There is a dīnār in the name of Al-Hassan b. Firūzan, minted in Sāri in 341 H.

**2. Bakran b. Khurshid**

**2.1. The relationship between Bakran b. Khurshid and Ziyārīd dynasty**

Bakran b. Khurshid was a general in the service of the Ziyārīd ruler Mardawij b. Ziyar, and was involved in the conspiracy, which plotted Mardawij's murder in 323 H. Mīskawayh refers to events 322 H (933 \ 934 AD.), that Mardawij b. Ziyar sent 2.1.1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Dinar

As mentioned in fig. (1-a, b), this Dinar was minted in Tabaristān? 323 H.

Bakran with solders from al-Gael and the Daylamite to seize al-A hwaz to block the way in the face of Ali b. Buyah [1]. There are two dīnārs in the name of Bakran b. Khurshid were never studied before.

[2], its inscription is as follows "Circle around *Obv.*, and *Rev.*".

#### 2.1.1.1. Obv. field

لا إله إلا  
الله وحده  
لا شريك له  
بكران بن خرشيد

#### Inner margin

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينار (بطبرستان) سنة ثلث وعشرين وثلثمائة

#### Outer margin

لِلّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ بَنَصَرَ اللَّهُ يَنْصُرُ

#### 2.1.1.2. Rev. field within a circle

الله  
محمد  
رسول  
الله  
الراضي بالله

#### Margin

محمد رسول الله أرسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون

#### The obverse field

This field includes لا إله إلا / الله and the name of محمد / وحده / لا شريك له

Bakran b. Khurshid is inscribed in the last line.

**Inner margin** "includes mint and date formula" <sup>(a)</sup> [3]

بطبرستان سنة ثلث وعشرين وثلثمائة

**Outer margin** "is inscribed a verse from Qur'anic quotation from Surrat al-Rum (xxx, 4-5)".

لِلّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ بَنَصَرَ اللَّهُ يَنْصُرُ

On the Reverse field, above الله, and in the second محمد / رسول / الله, and in the last line is inscribed the title of *Al- Radi Billah* الراضي بالله. This is honorific title of the Abbasid caliph Abū al-Abbas Mohamad b. al-Muqtader billah (322-329 H / 934-940 A.D.) [4]. It indicates the

declaration of Bakran b. Khurshid submission to the Abbasid caliph the political and religious symbol for the Sunni in the Islamic world at this time. As for the reverse margin the usual Qur'anic verse (9:33), or the identical one (61:9) is applied.

محمد رسول الله أرسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون

It is noted that this dīnār agrees in general form and the inscriptions texts accord with the contemporaneous Abbasid coins; where the obverse field is devoted to record لا إله إلا / الله وحده / لا شريك له and the name of the Abbasid caliph, but added to the dīnār the name of the general Bakran b. Khurshid, and the

obverse inner Margin dedicated for mint and the date, while the outer margin to the Qur'anic quotation from *Surat al-Rum*. As for the reverse field, it is devoted to محمد / رسول / الله, and the name of the Abbasid Caliph, while the reverse margin is dedicated to record the Qur'anic verse (9:33).

#### 2.1.2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Dinar

This Dīnār minted in al-Karj<sup>(b)</sup> in 323 H., fig. (2-a, b) [5] [6]. As mentioned in fig. (1), it could be seen that the mint name "al-Karj" was written "instead of Tabaristān". From this point of view, it could be concluded that these two dīnārs

were minted by Bakran b. Khurshid after the death of Mardawij b. Ziyar. Furthermore, Bakran b. Khurshid inscribed the name of the Abbasid caliph *Al- Radi Billah* to give legitimacy to his ruler.



Figure (1) dīnār with the name of *Bakran b. Khurshid* minted in Tabaristān 323 H. (Sotheby's, ancient, British, Islamic, Italian and world coins....., No.171.)



Figure (2) dīnār with the name of Bakran b. Khurshid minted in Al-Karj 323H. (Baldwin, Islamic coin Auction, No.10 ...., No.284)

### 3. Al- Hassan b. Fīrūzan

#### 3.1. The relationship between *Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan* and *Ziyārīd dynasty*

Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan<sup>(c)</sup> was mentioned in the historical sources was after the death of his cousin Mākān b. Kālī<sup>(d)</sup> [4], and his threats of the Ziyārīd dynasty<sup>(e)</sup> [7]. He was similar to Mākān in courage. When Mākān died, Washmgīr b. Ziyār (323-357 H. / 935-968 AD.) sent to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan to ask for his obediendce, but Ibn Fīrūzan refused. Ibn Fīrūzan took hostile position where he thought that Washmgīr leads Mākān to murder. So Ibn Fīrūzan was inciting the supporters of Mākān against Washmgīr. Ibn Fīrūzan tried to support himself and his rebellion, so he announced his loyalty and obediendce to the Sāmānid prince

Nasr b. Ahmad (301-331 H. / 913-943 AD.) [1]. In 330 H. / 941-2 AD., Washmgīr marched out to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan in Sāri [8] so Ibn Fīrūzan walked to the Sāmānid ruler Abū'Ali Ahmad b. Abi Bakr Muhammad b. Al-Muzaffar b. Al-Muhtaj<sup>(f)</sup> [4], to rescue him, and announced his obediendce to Abū'Ali, in order to help him against Washmgīr, Abū'Ali agreed, and marched with him to Rayy. Washmgīr met them outside Sāriy, the war continued between them for days, until Abū'Ali knew that Sāmānid prince Nasr b. Ahmad died, whereat Abū'Ali reconciled Washmgīr, and took Salar the son of Washmgīr as hostages.

Abū‘Ali and Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan returned to Jurjān, but the later was not satisfied with what Abū‘Ali did. Ibn Fīrūzan wanted him to complete the war, but Abu‘Ali refused. And when they arrived to limit between Jurjān and Khurāsān, Ibn Fīrūzan attacked Abū‘Ali, and conquered him, and took his money, and took Salar b. Washmgīr, who was with Abū‘Ali. Then Ibn Fīrūzan seized Jurjān, a provence of Dāmighān<sup>(g)</sup> [9], Samnān<sup>(h)</sup> [10], and the citadel which Abū‘Ali protected [1] [4] [10]. In the meantime Washmgīr marched from Tabaristān to Rayy, and seized it, whereas Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan wanted to appeal to Washmgīr against Abū‘Ali b. al-Muhtaj. So Ibn Fīrūzan sent to Washmgīr his son Salar, Ibn Fīrūzan aimed to be strengthened against al-Khurāsānia, if they rewayed war against him. Washmgīr sent his son, and did not authorize Ibn Fīrūzan to invalidate conditions of accord with the Sāmānid [1] [4] [10]. Rukn al-Dawlah, the Buyid, marched to Rayy, and conquered Washmgīr, and seized Rayy, then he added to Rukn al-Dawlah many of Washmgīr’s men. The later marched to Tabaristān. Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan conquered him and returned to Khurāsān on the road of Shahraiār Mountain. After that Ibn Fīrūzan sent to Rukn al-Dawlah, to contact him, the later agreed, an Alliance was accomplished between them, and Rukn al-Dawlah married the daughter of Ibn Fīrūzan, the mother of the prince Fakhr Al-Dawlah ‘Ali (366-387 H. / 976-997 AD.) b. Rukn al-Dawlah [1] [4] [10].. In 333 H. / 944-5 AD., Nuh b. Nasr (331-343 H. / 943-954 AD.) sent to Abū‘Ali b. al-Muhtaj with Khurāsān troops to Rayy to rescue it from Rukn al-Dawlah, and when he came down Bistām [11], opposed by some who were with him, where they returned with Mansūr b. Qarātākīn, one of the great leaders of Nuh, and they marched to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan in Jurjān, the

later conquered them, and they returned to Nisābūr. Abū‘Ali walked to Rayy; Rukn al-Dawlah went out for war. They met in a battle three leagues (*farsakhs*) from Rayy, the *Kurds* who was with Abū‘Ali joined Rukn al-Dawlah and Abū‘Ali was conquered, and returned near Nisābūr. Washmgīr met Abū‘Ali, where the prince Nuh b. Nasr sent him with troops to help Washmgīr. Abū‘Ali marched to Ibn Fīrūzan in Jurjān, the later was conquered, Washmgīr controlled Jurjān, and that was in Safar 333 H. / 945 AD. [4] [10]. In *Rabī‘a I* 336 H. / September 947 AD. Rnkn al-Dawlah and his leader Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan conquered Washmgīr. Rnkn Al-Dawlah seized Tabaristān, Jurjān, and appointed Ibn Fīrūzan as a ruler on Jurjān. Then Rukn Al-Dawlah returned to Rayy, while Washmgīr returned to Khurāsān asking the Sāmānid Nuh b. Nasr to retake his country [4] [10]. Moreover, in 337 H. / 948-9 AD. Nuh b. Nasr ordered Mansūr b. Qarātākīn to help Washmgīr. Mansur marched with the troops of Khurasan in the company of Washmgīr to Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan in Jurjān. But Mansūr reconciliated Ibn Fīrūzan, and came back to Nisābūr, Ibn Fīrūzan stayed in Zawzan<sup>(i)</sup> [8], while Washmgīr remained in Jurjān [4] [10]. In 341 H. / 952-3 AD., Rukn al-Dawlah marched from Rayy to conquer Tabaristān and Jurjān. Washmgīr moved from Jurjān to Nisābūr. Then Rukn al-Dawlah marched to Nasa<sup>(j)</sup> [5] [8] and stayed there, and seized this country, and left Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan and ‘Ali b. Kamah as his lieutenants in Jurjān. When Rukn al-Dawlah returned to Rayy, Washmgīr marched to them, and conquered them, and retook Jurjān [4] [10]. In 342 H. / 953-4 AD. Nuh b. Nasr sent to Washmgīr and Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan for reconciliation, and ignored the dispute between them, and cooperated against those who divided the dynasty, they agreed on that Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan died in 356H. / 966 AD. [1] [4].

### 3.1.1. The Dinar of Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan

This dīnār, fig. (3), was never studied before, it was published in Baldwin's, Islamic coin Auction 14, 8 3.1.1.1. *Obv. field*

July 2008 [6]. Its inscription is as follows "Double circle around **Obv.**, and **Rev.**".

بن  
لا إله إلا الله  
وحده لا شريك له  
المطيع لله  
الحسن فيروزان

#### **Inner margin**

بسم الله ضرب هذا الدينر بسارية سنة احدى وأربعين وثلاثمائة

#### **Outer margin**

لِلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِنَصْرِ اللَّهِ يَنْصُرُ

### 3.1.1.2. *Rev. field within a circle*

الله  
محمد  
رسول الله  
ركن الدولة  
أبو علي بويه  
.....

#### **Margin**

محمد رسول الله أرسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون

#### **The obverse field**

Includes لا إله إلا الله / وحده لا شريك له, followed by the title of *al- Mutī'a lillāh* المطيع لله. This is a honorific title of the Abbasid caliph Abū al-Qasim al-fadl b. al-Muqtader billah (334-363 H. / 946-974 AD.) [4]. It indicates the declaration of Al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan submission to the Abbasid caliph the political and religious symbol for the Sunni in the Islamic world at this time. In the first and the last lines is inscribed the name of "al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan" الحسن بن فيروزان. Mint and date formula was inscribed in the inner margin, سارية, سنة احدى وأربعين وثلاثمائة. On the outer margin is inscribed a verse from the Qur'anic quotation from *surrat al-Rum* (xxx, 4-5). لِلَّهِ الْأَمْرُ مِنْ قَبْلُ وَمِنْ بَعْدُ وَيَوْمَئِذٍ يَفْرَحُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِنَصْرِ اللَّهِ يَنْصُرُ. On the Reverse field, above الله, and in the second رسول الله / محمد, and in the fourth is inscribed the title Rukn al-Dawlah ركن الدولة أبو علي بويه Abū'Ali Buyid

(321-366/933-976). In the last line is inscribed unread word. As for the reverse margin usual Qur'anic verse (9:33), or the identical one (61:9) is applied. محمد رسول الله أرسله بالهدى ودين الحق ليظهره على الدين كله ولو كره المشركون. It is noted that this dīnār agrees in general form and the inscriptions texts accord with the contemporaneous Buyid coins; where the obverse field is devoted to record لا إله إلا الله / وحده لا شريك له, and the name of the Abbasid caliph, but added to the dīnār the name of the ruler al-Hassan b. Fīrūzan, as a governor follower of Buyid state, and the obverse inner Margin dedicated for mint and date formula, in the outer margin inscribed the Qur'anic quotation from *Surat al-Rum*. As for the reverse field, it is devoted for the Kalima محمد / رسول الله, and the name of the Buyid prince, while the reverse margin is dedicated to inscribe the Qur'anic verse (9:33).





Figure (3) *ḍinār* in the name of al-Hassan b. *Firūzan* minted in *Sāri* in 341H. / 951-2 AD. (Baldwin, Islamic Coin, No. 349.)

#### 4. Conclusion

*This ḍinār was minted after Rukn Al-Dawlah seized Tabaristān and Jurjān with helping Al-Hassan b. Firūzan, who was appointed the ruler on Jurjān. This ḍinār is reflecting the political relationship between Rukn Al-Dawlah as presiding over, and Al-Hassan b. Firūzan, as a follower ruler to him. Moreover this ḍinār is a historical document which shows the relationship between Al-Hassan b. Firūzan and Buyids, before one year from the inside by the Sāmānid prince Nuh b. Nasr to appeal al-Hassan b. Firūzan beside him, when he sent to Al-Hassan and Washmgīr to discard the dispute between them, and unify their ranks to face their enemies Buyids, and the alliance with the Sāmānid prince. But there is not any coins showing the following stage between al-Hassan b. Firūzan and the Sāmānid dynasty.*

#### Endnotes

- (a) Tabaristān: A mountainous region located in the north western section from Iran, and bordered to the east Jurjān and Qumis, Azrebaijan province, and some of country's Rum, and part of the Caspian sea from the west, and from the south some Qumis, Al-Rayy, Qazvin, Iraq, and part of Azrebaijan, in the north is the Caspian sea.
- (b) Al-Karj: A city between Hamadhan and Isbhan.
- (c) Historical sources refer to him with the name of Al-Hsasan b. Al-Firūzan, but in this research we will refer to him with the name of al-Hassan b. Firūzan, according to this *ḍinār*.
- (d) Mākān b. Kālī : Daylamite general, was appointed by Abū al-Hussein b. 'Alī Al-Utrushi Astrabad in 309 H. / 921 AD. Mākān seized Jurjān from Baghra, the Samanid ruling, but al-

Hassan al-Utrushi defeated Mākān and seized Jurjān and, Tabaristān. After the death of al-Utrushi, Asfar b. Shīrawayh dominated. Mākān took advantage of that and expulsion Asfar of Tabaristān, who left to Jurjān. Asfār could seize Rayy and forced Mākān to leave it. After the death of Asfar, Mardāwīj b. Ziyār was appointed, came to power, and greed in the annexation of Jurjān and Tabaristān which were held by Mākān. Mardāwīj walked to Tabaristān and seized it. Mākān was able to take Nisābūr and Tabaristān in 324 H. / 935 AD. When Mākān tried to seize Jurjān; the deputy of Washmgīr was repelled from it. So Mākān sent Washmgīr to give him ruling of Jurjān, Washmgīr agreed. Since that time raising the profile Mākān, he took off obedience to the Sāmānid prince Ahmad b. Nasr, in

Ramadan 324 H. / 936 AD. And the Alliance with Washmgīr, but Mākān was defeated by the Sāmānids and was killed in Ishaqābad city in 329 H. / 941 AD.

- (e) The real founder to the Ziyārīd state (316-470 H. / 928-1077 AD.) is Mardāwīj b. Ziyār, who announced in year 316-319 H. / 928-931 AD., his independence in Jurjān, Tabaristān, and seized Isfahan, Hamadhan, and payments of its strength even Helwan on the board of island (Iraq), in order to seize Iraq form the state as a Sassanid, the caliph has entrusted him to rule the country under his possession, Mardāwīj was killed in 323. / 935 AD., and was succeeded by his brother Washmgīr, who entrusted in obedience to the Sāmānid. When the Buyid state emerged in 320 H. / 932 AD., the Ziyārīd influence did not exceed the limits of Jurjān and Tabaristān, so that Qabūs b. Washmgīr was exiled from his country in 371 H. / 982 AD., by the Buyid Mu‘ayyad al-Dawlah (366-372 H. / 976-973 AD.), when he returned from his exile in 389 H. / 999 AD. He was able to retake the territory of Gilanand, but he was killed by his soldiers in 403 H. / 1012 AD. And he was succeeded by his

son Manawchehr, who was obedient to the sultan Mahmud of Ghazni (389-421 H. / 999-1030 AD.), and engraved his name on the coins, and prayed for him in Friday sermon. The last Ziyārīd rulers Kilan Shah (462-470H. / 1069-1077 AD.), then the Ismaillia occupied the Ziyārīd country.

- (f) He was appointed by the Sāmānid prince Nasr b. Ahmad (301-331 H. / 913-943 AD.). In 327 H. / 938 AD., to Khurasan and their armies, instead of his father Abu Bakr. In Muhrram of 328 H. / October 939 AD. Siezed Jurjān, and Rayy in 329 H. / 940 AD. In 330 H. / 941 AD. Abu ‘Ali captured the country of the mountain, and seized Zankan, Abhar, Qazvin, Qum, Karaj, Hamadhan, Nahawand and Dainwar to the limits of Helwan. His death was in 340 H. / 951 AD.
- (g) Dāmighān: A big country between the Rayy and Nisabūr, and it is Qasabat Qumīs.
- (h) Samnān: Country between Rayy and Dāmighān, and some consider it in Qumis.
- (i) Zawzan: A wide Korah between Nisābūr and Herāt
- (j) NASA: A city in Khurāsān

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