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## **Hunting, fight, violence in Early-Islamic Persia**

Tabaristan, the region south of the Caspian sea had a particular role in the history of medieval Iran. Its geographical isolation, mountainous regions, often intolerable climate and thick forests caused many difficulties for the early Muslim conquerors. Due to these difficult conditions not only archaic political structures, titles and religious trends survived tenaciously which were deeply rooted in the Sasanian past but in the cultural domain too this region was strongly connected to the pre-Islamic times.

In this paper the present author aims at analyzing some hunting episodes between local princes of Tabaristan and their Seljuq rivals. On the basis of our local sources it seems that these hunting stories of Najm al-Doule Qaren and 'Ala al-Doule 'Ali of the then ruling Bawandid dynasty can be linked with the myths and legends of pre-Islamic Persia.

In sum one can conclude that these passages show not only the signs of physical and political contest and violence between two princes and the Seljuq sultans but one can perceive it as a symbolical fight between the two faces of Iranian civilization. The conflict of the Preislamic heroism and Islamic conquerors here ends with the victory of the former in striking contrast with the general process of islamization.