

“Under the rule of the Tyrant we missionaries were thankful never to be attacked directly but only indirectly through the continual extortion from Christians in general: so in that direction we enjoyed the Divine providence, because on various occasions, when the Armenian patriarch” (i.e. Lazarus) “. . . was trying to have us expelled from Persia, by the special favour of God and owing to fear they had of a sovereign so unbalanced and tyrannical they never succeeded. . . .”

It was the night of the 19th–20th June 1747 when Nadir Shah the Afshar was assassinated. His age was then reckoned as 63—lunar years, no doubt. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* quotes one historian as describing Nadir Shah as a

‘most comely man, upward of six feet in height, well proportioned and of robust constitution: with fine large black eyes and eyebrows . . . a loud, strong voice: a moderate wine-drinker, and fond of simple diet.’

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