

= Tzachas =

Tzachas (Greek : ??????) , also known as Chaka Bey (Turkish : Çaka Bey) was an 11th @-@ century Seljuk Turkish military commander who ruled an independent state based in Smyrna (present @-@ day Izmir) . Originally in Byzantine service , he rebelled and seized Smyrna , much of the Aegean coastlands of Asia Minor and the islands lying off shore in 1088 ? 91 . At the peak of his power , he even declared himself Byzantine emperor , and sought to assault Constantinople in conjunction with the Pechenegs . In 1092 , a Byzantine naval expedition under John Doukas inflicted a heavy defeat on him and retook Lesbos , while in the next year he was treacherously slain by his son @-@ in @-@ law Kilij Arslan I. Smyrna and the rest of Tzachas ' former domain were recovered by the Byzantines a few years later , in c . 1097 .

= = Life = =

Very little is known about his life , and that mostly from only one source , the Alexiad of the Byzantine princess Anna Komnene , daughter of Emperor Alexios I Komnenos (r . 1081 ? 1118) . He is also mentioned in the 13th @-@ century Danishmendname , but it is not a very reliable source due to the semi @-@ legendary nature of its material .

According to the Alexiad , Tzachas was originally a raider , who was taken as a prisoner by the Byzantines during the reign of Nikephoros III Botaneiates (ruled 1078 ? 81) . Tzachas entered Byzantine service and advanced rapidly through imperial favour , receiving the title of protonobilissimus and rich gifts . However , when Alexios I Komnenos deposed Botaneiates in 1081 , Tzachas lost his position and fled Byzantium .

From ca . 1088 on , he used his base at Smyrna to wage war against the Byzantines . Employing Christian craftsmen , he built a fleet , with which he captured Phocaea and the eastern Aegean islands of Lesbos (except for the fortress of Methymna) , Samos , Chios and Rhodes . A Byzantine fleet under Niketas Kastamonites was sent against him , but Tzachas defeated it in battle . Some modern scholars have speculated that his activities during this time may have been in conjunction , and perhaps even coordination , with two contemporary Byzantine Greek rebels , Rhapsomates in Cyprus , and Karykes in Crete .

In 1090 / 91 , the Byzantines under Constantine Dalassenos recovered Chios . Undeterred , Tzachas rebuilt his forces , and resumed his attacks , even proclaiming himself emperor (basileus) and seeking to conclude an alliance against Alexios I with the Pechenegs in Thrace for a joint attack on Constantinople . In 1092 , Dalassenos and the new megas doux , John Doukas , were sent against Tzachas , and attacked the fortress of Mytilene on Lesbos . Tzachas resisted for three months , but finally had to negotiate a surrender of the fortress . During his return to Smyrna , Dalassenos attacked the Turkish fleet , which was almost destroyed .

In spring 1093 , Tzachas attacked the port of Abydos in the Sea of Marmara . Alexios I called upon the Sultan of the Seljuk Sultanate of Rum Kilij Arslan I (r . 1092 ? 1107) , who was married to Tzachas 's daughter and was thus his son @-@ in @-@ law , to attack Tzachas from the rear . The Sultan advanced to Abydos , where , at the pretext of inviting Tzachas to a banquet , he had his father @-@ in @-@ law murdered . However , in ca . 1097 a " Tzachas " ? possibly the original Tzachas ' son ? is reported as still holding Smyrna when the Byzantine army under John Doukas recaptured the city .