



## ‘ABD-AL-‘ALĪM NAŞRALLĀH KHAN

---

‘ABD-AL-‘ALĪM NAŞRALLĀH KHAN “QAMAR,” government official, historian, biographer, translator, and grammarian in British India. He was born at Korja near Bolandšahr in the early 19th century. His father, Ḥakīm ‘Omar Khan Aḥmadī Kešgī, died when ‘Abd-al-‘Alīm was only ten years old. After his father’s death, ‘Abd-al-‘Alīm moved to Nizamabad in Azamgarh district, where his uncle, Faḥ Khan, was *taḥsildār* (revenue officer). There he had an opportunity to study with the well-known scholar, Mawlavī Aḥmad-‘Alī Čeryakotī. Later, he qualified for service with the British government of India and was appointed a deputy collector in 1838. About 1860 he gave up his position with the British, and in 1865 he entered the service of the Neẓām of Hyderabad as chief judge (*nāẓem*) of the criminal court (*fawjdārī ‘adālat*). Later he became *şadr ta’alloqadar*, a position akin to that of a revenue commissioner in British India (Storey, I, p. 576).

‘Abd-al-‘Alīm was deeply religious and known for his inclination to Sufism. As an officer, he was widely respected for his honesty and integrity. The British resident at the court of Hyderabad, Sir Richard Temple, commented his firmness and uprightness as a criminal judge (R. Temple, *Journals Kept in Hyderabad, Kashmir, Sikkim and Nepal*, London, 1887, I, pp. 31, 99).

‘Abd-al-‘Alīm was a prolific writer; his disciple/biographer, Farīd Aḥmad, has listed nineteen works by him. *Tārīk-e Dakan* (Lucknow, 1870, 1879) contains a



lucid description of Hyderabad, its people, and its administrative system and the author’s recollections of personal experiences during his stay there. *Jāme‘-e Faṭḥ Kānī* (Delhi, 1948) is a biography of his uncle. (An Urdu translation of this work by Pandet Dayā Nāth “Ārām” Dehlavī has also been published, Delhi, 1949.) Other Persian works include *Bayāz-e delgošā*, a biography of his spiritual guide, Shah ‘Abd-al-‘Alīm Lōhāravī (Aligarh, ca. 1853); *Golšan-e hamīša bahār*, a *taḍkera* of over 400 Indian poets, which also contains the author’s autobiography (Aligarh, 1854); *Šarḥ-e robā‘iyāt-e Yūsofī*, a commentary on the quatrains of Yūsofī (Agra, 1863; Kanpur, 1882); *Yomn-e azfarī*, a grammar of Eastern Turkish (Lucknow, 1878); *Toḥfat al-moşallīn*, a Persian version of Sadīd-al-dīn Kaşgārī’s *Monyat al-moşallī*; and *Teryāq-e ḳorĵa*, a pharmaceutical booklet dealing with antidotes against snakebite (Meerut, 1862). ‘Abd-al-‘Alīm also wrote a number of books in Arabic and Urdu before dying in his native village of Ḳorĵa on 27 Moḥarram 1299/19 December 1881.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

Storey, I, pp. 756-57, 904, 1042-43, 1103.

Raḥmān-‘Alī, *Taḍkera-ye ‘olamā-ye Hend*, Lucknow, 1914, p. 237.

M. Farīd Aḥmad, *Bayāz-e ĵānfeza* (Urdu), Agra, n.d.