



‘ABD-AL-FATTĀH ḤOSAYNĪ

‘ABD-AL-FATTĀH ḤOSAYNĪ ‘ASKARĪ, Indian scholar of Persian and Arabic. He left two works. 1. *Meftāḥ al-ma‘ānī*, a commentary in six *daftar*s on the *Maṭnavī* of Rūmī, was collected by the author’s pupil, Hedāyatallāh, in 1049/1639-40. (See A. Sprenger, *A Catalogue of the ... Manuscripts of the Libraries of the King of Oudh* I, Calcutta, 1854, no. 365; Ethé, *Cat. Ind. Off.*, no. 1103; for other MSS of the *Meftāḥ*, see Marshall, *Mughals in India*, p. 4) 2. *Dorr-e maknūn* consists of selections from the *Maṭnavī*. Each verse chosen as the expression of a key concept is accompanied by other verses from the *Maṭnavī* stating the same idea and sometimes by the compiler’s observations in prose. The Lahore MS (Punjab Univ. Lib., no. 7311), fol. 40b./1, for example, cites: *‘Elm cūn bar Delhi zanad yārī šavad* (*Maṭnavī*, ed. Nicholson, I:3447). The compiler then selects verses to reveal the concept *‘elm*: 40b.2 = *Maṭnavī* I:3446; 40b.3 = I:3448; 40b.4 = I:3451; etc. Each such cluster of verses constitutes a “hidden pearl.” ‘Abd-al-Fattāḥ expresses the wish that one Mīrzā Zīā’ Baḳš should present the text to the emperor Awrangzēb and prefaces the work with ten verses praising the sovereign.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.

