



## 'ABD-AL-ḤAMĪD MALEK-AL-KALĀMĪ

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'ABD-AL-ḤAMĪD B. 'ABD-AL-MAJĪD B. ŠOKRALLĀH MALEK-AL-KALĀMĪ, calligrapher, poet, and government official. Born in Sanandaġ in 1302/1884-85, he died in Tehran on 4 Mehr 1328 Š./26 September 1949 (Bāmbād, *Reġāl* V, p. 142; Bayānī, *Ķošnevīsān*, pp. 371, 376). His earliest education stressed the Qur'ān and Islamic traditions, and he made the pilgrimage to Mecca with his father while still a boy. Sometime before 1315/1896-97 he entered the administration of Abu'l-Qāsem Khan Qaragūzlū Nāṣer-al-molk, the latter being then resident in Hamadan as governor. In his early years as a government scribe, 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd was under the protection of Salmān Farāhānī Bayān-al-salṭana, whom he had met in Sanandaġ (Bayānī, *Ķošnevīsān*, p. 372). In 1314/1896-97, Salmān Farāhānī accompanied Nāṣer-al-molk to Tehran, where the latter assumed control of the finance ministry (*vezārat-emālīya*) in the government headed by 'Alī Khan Amīn-al-dawla (Bāmdād, *Reġāl* I, pp. 68-70). Soon, Salmān Farāhānī arranged for the transfer of 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd to Tehran, and the latter also joined the finance ministry as a scribe in the *daftar-e estīfā*' (office of state accountant). 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd remained with that ministry through the tumultuous constitutional period until 1307 Š./1928-29, when he was transferred to the prime minister's chancery; he was the prime minister's representative on a committee established to transfer a portion of the Imperial Library (*ketābkāna-ye salṭanatī*) to the newly founded National Library (*ketābkāna-ye mellī*). 'Abd-al-Ḥamīd retired from government service shortly before his death (Bayānī, *Ķošnevīsān*, p. 372).



As a calligrapher, ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd was noted for his versatility. His early teacher, Salmān Farāhānī specialized in *šekasta*, a script widely used for correspondence and manuscripts in the Qajar period (Fażā’elī, *Aṭlas-e kaṭṭ*, Isfahan, 1391/1971-72, pp. 628-29). The repertoire of ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd included *šekasta*, *nask*, *nasta’līq*, *tawqī’*, *tolṭ*, kufic, and *toḡrā’ī* (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān*, p. 375; Rāhīrī, *Taḍkera-ye košnevīsān-e mo’āšer*, Tehran, 1346 Š./1967, pp. 109-10). Both his father and grandfather were calligraphers. The father, ‘Abd-al-Maǰīd, was given the title Malek-al-Kalām, and the grandfather, Šokrallāh, was known as Faḳr-al-kottāb (Browne, *Press and Poetry*, pp. 305-06). ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd’s own title was Amīr-al-kottāb, although he is also known as Malek-al-kalāmī in reference to his father’s epithet (Rāhīrī, *Taḍkera*, p. 109).

‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd used his calligraphic skills in a variety of ways; album pages executed by him are found in Iranian private collections (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān*, p. 377). He also achieved renown as a teacher of calligraphy, and Mortažā ‘Abd-al-Rasūlī was one of his pupils (Rāhīrī, *Taḍkera*, p. 110; Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān*, p. 375). Inscriptions designed by him are found on important architectural monuments of the Pahlavi era, including the tomb of Ḥāfeẓ in Shiraz and the tomb of Rezā Shah south of Tehran at Šāh ‘Abd-al-‘Aẓīm (Rāhīrī, *Taḍkera*, p. 110). In these inscriptions he frequently used *tolṭ*, a script in which he excelled (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān*, p. 375). In addition, ‘Abd-al-Ḥamīd wrote poetry under the *taḳalloṣ* Šarqī. As a connoisseur of Persian literature he favored the works of ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān Jāmī, Amīr Ḳosrow Dehlavī, and Fayẓī Dakanī (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān*, pp. 371, 373; Rāhīrī, *Taḍkera*, pp. 109-12). In both calligraphy and poetry he demonstrated a strong respect for tradition linking the modern era with the achievements of the past.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Given in the text.