



## ‘ABD-AL-LAṬĪF BHETĀ’Ī

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‘ABD-AL-LAṬĪF BHETĀ’Ī, **SHAH**, Sufi poet of Sind. Born in the village of Haveli, near Hala, in the district of Hyderabad, in 1101/1689, he eventually established a small settlement near his native town and named it Bhit (“sandhill”). Details of his life are lacking. After his death in 1165/1752, Gōlām Šāh Kalhōrō (amir of Sind, 1172-85/158-71) had a mausoleum built in his honor at Bhit. It became a shrine for his followers and later devotees, who congregated there to recite and sing his poetry. Though not a man of great learning, ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf was steeped in the thought of Mawlānā Jalāl-al-dīn Rūmī, and according to A. Schimmel (*Pain and Grace*, pp. 164-72), the thematic influence of Rūmī on the *Šāh jō Resālō* is evident. The latter work, often known simply as the *Resālō*, is perhaps the most famous composition in the Sindhi language. Compiled and published more than a century after the death of Shah ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf, it expounds the cardinal Sufi doctrine of man’s innate and insatiable hunger for things divine, a hunger which the poet brilliantly exemplifies in lyric poems as well as in dialogues and narratives based on folk tales, such as *‘Omar and Māroī*, *Sassūī and Ponhoñ*, and *Līla and Čanēsar*. The Sindhi verse of ‘Abd-al-Laṭīf conveys a sonorous and pathetic mood; its delicate rhythms and beauty of expression are often heightened by being set to music, e.g., Indian *rāga* melodies to which the poet was especially attracted.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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The *Resālō* has been edited by Ernest Trumpp (Leipzig, 1867), H. M. Gorbokānī, with commentary (Karachi, 1973).

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