



## ‘ABD-AL-QĀDER BALKĪ

‘**ABD-AL-QĀDER BALKĪ** (1839-1923), an Ottoman Sufi and poet who came originally from Balk. He was born at Kānqāh, one of the villages of the city of Qondo. His father was Sayyed Solaymān Ḥosaynī, an important personage of the *sādāt-e Ḥosaynīya* (sayyeds descending from Ḥosayn). In 1272/1855-56 ‘Abd-al-Qāder went to Konya together with his father. After staying there for a time he went first to Bursa and then to Istanbul upon the invitation of the Ottoman sultan, ‘Abd-al-‘Azīz. In Istanbul he was given the position of shaikh in a *tekye*. After occupying this position for ten years he died on 23 Rajab 1341/15 March 1923.

Works: Seven *maṭnavīs* of a mystical character are all written in Persian; the Persian and Turkish poems of ‘Abd-al-Qāder Balkī are contained in a *dīvān*. 1. *Yanābī’ al-ḥekam*. This *maṭnavī* was modeled on one by his father, Shaikh Solaymān, named *Yanābī’ al-mawadda*; it consists of 11,000 lines (*bayts*). 2. *Golšan-e asrār*, 6,876 lines, written in *hazaʿ* meter. 3. *Konūz al-‘ārefīn fī asrār al-tawḥīd*, 5,453 lines. 4. *Asrār al-tawḥīd*, 232 lines; it was published in Istanbul in 1325/1907-08 and was translated into Turkish as a poem by the *valī* of Salonica, Nāẓem Pāšā. This translation was also published in Istanbul in 1331/1913. 5. *Šams-e raḳšān*, a *maṭnavī* of 7,777 lines. 6. *Sonūḥāt*, 2,260 lines. 7. *Elhāmāt-e rabbānīya*. 8. The *Dīvān*, which is rather large in size, contains his Turkish and Persian poems. All of these works are much more important from the point of view of mysticism than for their literary value.



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