



'ABD-AL-RAŠĪD DAYLAMĪ

'**ABD-AL-RAŠĪD DAYLAMĪ**, a calligrapher and poet who served the Mughal ruler Shah Jahān (1037-58/1628-58). Born in Qazvīn to a family of Ḥasanī sayyeds, he studied calligraphy with his maternal uncle, **Mīr 'Emād Ḥasanī**, probably during the latter's residence in Isfahan (ca. 1008-24/1599-1615; Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān* II, pp. 393, 521-26). After the assassination of Mīr 'Emād in 1024/1615, his associates went into hiding and then fled Iran. In a petition addressed to Shah Jahān, 'Abd-al-Rašīd states that, when most of Mīr 'Emād's followers moved to Ottoman Turkey, he traveled to India. Petitioning to be relieved of his duties for reasons of health, 'Abd-al-Rašīd states that he has been in Shah Jahān's service for twenty-three years (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān* II, p. 394). This petition may be connected with the removal of 'Abd-al-Rašīd from his position as director (*dārūḡa*) of the royal library (*ketābkāna*) which is said to have occurred in 1056/1646-47 (Şāleḡ, *'Amal-e Şāleḡ* I, preface, p. 5). If so, 'Abd-al-Rašīd may have entered the service of Shah Jahān in 1033/1623-24, four years before the latter's accession to the throne. According to Bayānī, 'Abd-al-Rašīd assumed control of the royal *boyūtāt* toward the end of Shah Jahān's reign and retained that position under Awrangzēb (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān* II, p. 393). A death date of 1081/1670-71 is given for 'Abd-al-Rašīd in a poem about him composed by Moḡammad Sa'īd for Awrangzēb's daughter, Zīb al-nesā' (Aşlah, *Tadkera* II, p. 557; Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān* II, pp. 397-98).

Beyond his connection with the Mughal dynasty, little is known about 'Abd-al-Rašīd's life. Manuscripts and album pages executed by him in India are dated between 1041/1631-32 and 1071/1660-61 (Bayānī, *Ḳošnevīsān* II, pp. 393,



399-400). Bayānī also attributes to him works executed in Yazd, Ašraf (present-day Behšahr), and Isfahan dated between 1000/1591-92 and 1034/1624-25 (*Košnevīsān* II, pp. 398-99). It is possible that some or all of these examples were executed by another calligrapher using the name Rašīd or ‘Abd-al-Rašīd.

‘Abd-al-Rašīd specialized in the *nasta‘līq* script, a hand in which his master excelled. A published example of his work is executed in the smooth and dramatic style associated with Mīr ‘Emād (Fazā‘elī, *Aṭlas*, p. 534; Safadi, *Islamic Calligraphy*, pp. 91, 100). It is sometimes said that ‘Abd-al-Rašīd instructed Shah Jahān’s son Dārā Šokūḳ in calligraphy (Bayānī, *Košnevīsān* II, p. 393). However the published work by that prince is not in the style used by Mīr ‘Emād and ‘Abd-al-Rašīd (Beach, *The Grand Mogul*, p. 171; Welch, *Calligraphy*, pp. 188-89). Nevertheless, ‘Abd-al-Rašīd’s work was appreciated by various calligraphers active in India, such as Moḥammad Sa‘īd, known as Ašraf, who composed an elegy on ‘Abd-al-Rašīd (Bayānī, *Košnevīsān* II, pp. 395, 397-98).

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