



## 'ABD-AL-RAZZĀQ BEG

'**ABD-AL-RAZZĀQ BEG** B. NAJAF-QOLĪ KHAN DONBOLĪ (1176-1243/1762-63 to 1827-28), literary biographer, poet, and historian of the early Qajar period. 'Abd-al-Razzāq came of a family of turkicized Kurds, the Donbolī, who had long been dominant in the region of Koy and Salmās in western Azarbaijan. His father Najaf-qolī served in Nāder Shah's army and was appointed governor general (*beglerbegī*) of Tabrīz on his return to Azarbaijan in 1155/1742. During his campaign of 1176/1763 Karīm Khan Zand reappointed Najaf-qolī to Tabrīz, and two years later returned to Šīrāz with Najaf-qolī's nephew Šahbāz Khan and other hostages. 'Abd-al-Razzāq was sent to join them in Šīrāz at the age of ten (*Tajreba* I, intro. and pp. 87, 119; II, p. 41).

At Šīrāz 'Abd-al-Razzāq was by his own account well treated, and like Karīm Khan's other hostages was a respected member of the court with an adequate pension and comparative freedom of movement within and outside the capital. Here he remained for fourteen years. His chief biographical work, the *Tajrebat al-aḥrār wa taslīat al-abrār* (see below) describes his adaptation to exile and his enjoyment of the wine, women, and poetry of the Zand capital in its heyday (I, pp. 119f.; II, pp. 43-58). In 1196/1781 'Alī Morād Khan Zand captured Šīrāz and took the hostages to his capital of Isfahan, and after 1199/1785, when the Qajars took Isfahan, 'Abd-al-Razzāq was able to return to Tabrīz. During the reign of Fath-'Alī Shah he entered the service of 'Abbās Mīrzā, the heir apparent and governor general of Azarbaijan. Apart from making the pilgrimage to Mecca in 1241/1826, 'Abd-al-Razzāq remained in Tabrīz as a civil servant and scholar until his death at the age of sixty-five.



He is the author of some sixteen works, including a *dīvān* of verse in both Persian and Arabic and several *maṭnavīs*, under the pen name of Maftūn (“Infatuated”). His prose compositions include a history of the early part of Fath-‘Alī’s reign, the *Ma’āter-e solṭāniya* (ed. Ġolām Ḥosayn Ṣadri-Afšār, Tehran, 1351 Š./1972; tr. Sir Harford Jones Brydges, *The Dynasty of the Kajars*, London, 1833). The rest of his output belongs in general to the *taḍkera* genre, being literary biographies of prominent poets and ‘*olamā*’ illustrated with quotations from their own and the author’s verses. The most important of these is the *Tajrebat al-aḥrār wa tasliat al-abrār* (ed. Ḥasan Qāzī Ṭabāṭabā’ī, 2 vols., Tabrīz, 1349-50 Š./1970-71). Also published is part of his *Negārestān-e Dārā* (ed. ‘Abd-al-Rasūl Ḳayyāmpūr, Tabrīz, 1342 Š./1963). ‘Abd-al-Razzāq’s style is quite lively and erudite, despite his deliberate emulation of the florid rhymed prose, replete with Arabic and Arabicisms, that was first popularized by Vaṣṣāf and revived in the 12th/18th century by Mīrzā Mahdī Astarābādī (see M. T. Bahār, *Sabkšenāsī* III, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959, pp. 319f.).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Besides the works of Donbolī and others referred to above, see Bāmdād, *Rejāl* II, p. 264 for a list of his works, and Storey, I (index) for manuscripts of his historical and biographical works.