



ABDĀL ČEŠŤĪ

ABDĀL ČEŠŤĪ, **ḲvĀJA ABŪ AḤMAD**, described by Jāmī as the foremost among the shaikhs of Češt. He was born in 260/874 (on 3 Jomādā II, according to *Sawāte' al-anwār* and *Mer'āt al-asrār*, but on 6 Ramažān, according to *Ḳazīnat al-ašfīā'*). His father, Solṭān Farasnāfa, belonged to the local nobility. Abū Aḥmad was a spiritual disciple of **ḲvĀJA ABŪ ESHĀQ ŠĀMĪ**. In *Nafaḥāt al-ons*, Jāmī relates an anecdote about their meeting. Abū Aḥmad, when he was twenty, became lost while on a hunting excursion. He encountered a band of forty holy men, including Abū Eshāq, at prayer. Abū Aḥmad fell at the saint's feet wishing to join the company of Sufis. He put on the coarse woolen garment (*kerqa*), which is the emblem of Sufis and, though later persuaded to return home, he remained dedicated to his new life. Eventually he converted his father from dissolute living to religious devotion.

Abdāl died on 10 Jomādā II (*Safīnat al-awliā'*) or 1 Jomādā II (*Ḳazīnat al-ašfīā'*) in 355/966 and was buried at Češt. He was succeeded in his spiritual mission by his son, **ḲvĀJA ABŪ MOḤAMMAD ČEŠŤĪ**.

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