



‘ABDĪ NĪŠĀPŪRĪ

‘ABDĪ NĪŠĀPŪRĪ, also known as ‘ABDĪ QALANDAR and ‘ABDĪ ŠĀHĪ, calligrapher and poet active in the first half of the 10th/16th century. Writing ca. 957/1550 Sām Mīrzā Šafavī mentions that ‘Abdī had died within the last two years (*Toḥfa-ye Sāmī*, Tehran, 1314 Š./1935, p. 18). Bayānī has disputed this statement, noting that ‘Abdī b. Ḥasan Qalandar copied a page in 996/1588 (*Košnevīsān*, pp. 424-25). However, it seems that ‘Abdī b. Ḥasan is not to be identified with ‘Abdī Nīšāpūrī. Said to be “from Nīšāpūr,” ‘Abdī was trained in Herat, where he studied calligraphy with Solṭān ‘Alī Mašhadī (Sām Mīrzā, loc. cit.; Moḥammad Faḵrī Herātī, *Laṭā’efnāma*, p. 148). Around 928/1521-22, when Moḥammad Faḵrī Herātī composed his supplement to *Majāles al-nafā’es*, ‘Abdī Qalandar was recognized as both a poet and *nasta’līq* calligrapher (ibid.). If ‘Abdī was still in Herat during 929/1522-23, he must have left soon afterward for Tabrīz, because he executed calligraphy for Shah Esmā’īl, Bahrām Mīrzā, and Shah Ṭahmāsp. In calligraphy written for or dedicated to members of the Safavid family, ‘Abdī uses the epithet al-Šāhī (Bayānī, pp. 425-26). Qāzī Aḥmad describes ‘Abdī as an intimate associate of Shah Ṭahmāsp (p. 87; tr., p. 134).

As a calligrapher ‘Abdī Nīšāpūrī does not appear to have been prolific. Specimens of his work are known only from albums now in Istanbul libraries. Pages dedicated to Shah Esmā’īl and Bahrām Mīrzā are found in an album compiled for the latter prince ca. 951/1544-45 (Topkapi Saray Library, Hazine 2154). Poetry and calligraphy dedicated to Shah Ṭahmāsp are found in an album for that ruler (University Library, Istanbul, F. 1422). Further examples are found in albums collected by the calligraphers Aḥmad Mašhadī (d.



976/1568-69) and Mālek Daylamī (d. 969/1561-62; Bayānī, p. 246).

The presence of his work in those important albums demonstrates that ‘Abdī was appreciated in his own day. However, he never attained the high esteem accorded to Solṭān ‘Alī Mašhadī’s other pupils, Moḥammad Abrišamī, Moḥammad Nūr, or Moḥammad Ḳandān. In an essay composed ca. 951/1544-45, Dūst Moḥammad describes ‘Abdī primarily as the teacher of his nephew, Šāh Maḥmūd Nišāpūrī (*Treatise*, pp. 29-30). Sām Mīrzā stresses that Maḥmūd surpassed his uncle in skill (loc. cit.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Moḥammad Faḳrī Herātī, *Laṭā’efnāma*, in Mīr ‘Alī Šīr Navā’ī, *Majāles al-nafā’es*, ed. Ḥekmat, Tehran, 1323 Š./1954-55, p. 148.

Dūst Moḥammad, *A Treatise on Calligraphers and Miniaturists*, ed. M. A. Chaghtai, Lahore, 1936.