



ABJADĪ

ABJADĪ, poetical name of MĪR MOḤAMMAD ESMĀ'ĪL KHAN, 18th century south-Indian poet of Persian and Urdu. He was born in Chingleput in Carnatic Payanghat. His father was a resident of Bijapur and the brother-in-law of the famous historian [Ferešta](#) (d. ca. 1033/1624). In Chingleput Abiādī received a traditional education in Arabic and Persian. The French had gained a degree of power in south India, and the British also ventured to encroach upon the emperor Awrangzēb's territories. Abiādī was employed by Navvāb Vālājāh ('Omdat-al-molk Moḥammad 'Alī), governor of Arcot (1163-1210/1749-95), as tutor to his son, Navvāb 'Omdat-al-omarā' (1210-16/1795-1801). Vālājāh was the son of the former Arcot governor, Navvāb Anvār-al-dīn Khan Gopamvī, who had been put to death by the French in 1161/1749. Consequently Vālājāh allied with the British military forces against the French.

Abiādī composed numerous works, including two *matnavīs* which relate to the events of this period: 1. *Anvārnāma* (Ethé, *Cat. Ind. Off.*, no. 1716), details the life of Navvāb Anvār-al-dīn Khan and summarizes the events of the following reign. The work, completed in 1174/1760-61, pleased Vālājāh, who rewarded Abiādī with 6,700 rupees. While the *Anvārnāma* was in progress, the French and Reżā 'Alī Khan, the son of Ḥosayn Dōst Khan, a rival of Vālājāh, besieged Chennapatan. Vālājāh had to leave Trichinopoly by sea to seek reinforcements from the British. On account of the siege, Abiādī experienced great hardships, and it was only after he left Madras in disguise and returned to Trichinopoly that he was able to finish the *Anvārnāma*. 2. *Mo'azzamnāma* (Panjab Univ. Lib., Pakistan, Ms. no. pi vi 289; ed. Bošrā Kātūn, Panjab Univ. Lib., Ms. thesis no. pe



ii 4), commemorates the battle between Prince Mo‘azzam and his younger brother, Prince A‘zam. After Awrangzēb’s death (1118/1707), A‘zam proclaimed himself sovereign of India at Delhi, while Mo‘azzam assumed the crown at Kabul. Both brothers resolved to assert their pretension by force of arms. They fought a bloody battle between Dhaulpur and Agra on 8 June 1707; A‘zam and his two grown sons, Bīdārbaqt and Vālājāh, were killed. Thus Mo‘azzam, surnamed Qoṭb-al-dīn Shah ‘Ālam, succeeded his father with the title of Bahādor Shah I. In the *Mo‘azzamnāma* Abīadī has given an impassioned account of this battle.

Vālājāh awarded him the title *malek-al-šo‘arā’* in 1189/1775-76, and a few years later, in 1192/1778-79, Abīadī died; he was buried in the courtyard of the Mīlāpūr Maḥalla mosque in Madras. His other works, which have survived in scattered manuscripts are: 3. *Dīvān-e rēkta*, his Urdu verses (A. Sprenger, *A Catalogue of the . . . Manuscripts of the Libraries of the King of Oudh* I, Calcutta, 1854, pp. 307-08; Ind. Off., Hindustani Ms. no. 137). 4. *Dīvān-e fārsī* (Āṣafiya Library, Hyderabad, Persian Ms. no. 482). 5. *Toḥfa le-šebyān* (see Garcin de Tassy, *Histoire de la litterature hindouie et hindoustanie*, Paris, 1870-71, pp. 98-99). 6. *Zobdat al-afkār*. 7. *Rāḡeb va marḡūb*. 8. *Haft jawhar*. 9. *Mavaddatnāma*. 10. *Majmū‘a-ye qaṣā‘ed*. 11. *Šarḡ-e toḥfat al-‘erāqayn*.

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