



ABŪ EŞĤĀQ ŠĀMĪ

ABŪ EŞĤĀQ ŠĀMĪ, K̲vĀJA, founder and eminent early saint of the Češtī *selsela* (3rd-4th/9th-10th century). He was a spiritual disciple of Shaikh Mamšād 'Olū Dīnavarī in Baghdad, where he had migrated from Syria in search of a Sufī master. After seven years with his shaikh, he was directed to proceed to Češt (a medieval town near Herat) and to provide its inhabitants with spiritual assistance. He was also advised to change his *nesba* from Šāmī to Češtī. One of the K̲vāja's most important achievements in Češt was the conversion of Abdāl Češtī (q.v.). Through the latter's efforts the teaching and practices of Abū Eşhāq gained wide acceptance and the order became firmly established. Little is known of the spiritual life of Abū Eşhāq; in *Sīar al-awliā'* (p. 39) it is cryptically reported that he used to assume an appearance of composure (*ṣaḥw*) in order to conceal the extent of his inner disclosures (*mokāšafāt*). According to *Kazīnat al-aşfīā'* (p. 226), he died on 14 Rabī' II 329/940-41 and was buried at Acre.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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