



## ABŪ ṬĀLEB KHAN LANDANĪ

**ABŪ ṬĀLEB KHAN LANDANĪ** B. ḤĀJJĪ MOḤAMMAD BEG KHAN TABRĪZĪ EŞFAHĀNĪ, official and author in British India. His father, an Azarbaijani Turk by descent, had emigrated from Isfahan to Lucknow. Abū Ṭāleb was born in Lucknow in 1166/1753. In 1775-76 he served as a district administrator in the regime of the prime minister of Awadh, Moḡtār-al-dawla. Subsequently he was in the service of Alexander Hannay (C. E. Buckland, *Dictionary of Indian Biography*, London, 1906, p. 188) and then Nathaniel Middleton, the British resident at Lucknow (*ibid.*, p. 288). Under the latter, he defeated the rebel Balbhadar Singh (Beale, *Orient. Biog. Dict.*, p. 102). After moving to Calcutta in 1202/1787-88, he edited the *dīvān* of Ḥāfeẓ (publ. Calcutta, 1791). In 1213-18/1799-1803, he traveled through Europe with Captain D. Richardson of the East India Company's Bengal army. Returning to India in mid-1803, he died at Lucknow in 1220/1805-06.

Abū Ṭāleb's writings include: 1. *Ḳolāṣat al-afkār*, biographies of Persian poets including the author, written in 1206-07/1791-93 (Storey, I, p. 878; see also *JRAS* 9, 1848, pp. 153-58). According to Storey, attached to the manuscripts of this work are usually found treatises by Abū Ṭāleb on ethics, music, prosody and medicine, as well as: 2. *Lobb al-sīar o jahānnomā*, a compendium of Muslim history written in 1208/1793-94 (Storey, I, pp. 145-46; Elliot, *History of India* VIII, pp. 298-300). 3. *Tafẓiḥ al-gāfelīn* (1211/1796-97; Storey, I, pp. 704-05), a history of the period of Āṣaf-al-dawla of Awadh (1188-1212/1775-97), much favored by British historians because of its defense of colonial administrative practices. Though no manuscript of the work is presently extant, it was



translated into English by W. Hoey (*History of Asaf-al-dawla*, Allahabad, 1888). 4. *Masīr-e ṭālebī fī belād-e afranjī*, an account of Abū Ṭāleb's European travels completed in 1219/1804-05. The text was edited and published in Calcutta in 1812 by his son, Mīrzā Ḥasan 'Alī, and Mīr Qodrat 'Alī; it was later abridged by D. Macfarlane (Calcutta, 1827, 1836). An English translation of the entire work (C. Stewart, *The Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan*, London, 1810; 2nd ed., 1814) served as the basis for two versions in French, from one of which a German translation was also prepared (Storey, I, pp. 878-79). 5. Abū Ṭāleb's *Dīvān* (*Cat. Bodleian* I, Oxford, 1889, no. 1994), ed. and tr. G. Swinton, London, 1807. 6. *Me'rāj al-tawḥīd*, an astronomical treatise written in 1219/1804; manuscript in Edinburgh University Library.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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See also C. Collin Davies, "Abū Ṭālib Khan," *ET* I, p. 153.

Marshall, *Mughals in India*, pp. 41-42.

Ḳayyāmpūr, *Soḳanvarān*, p. 19.

Tarbīat, *Dānešmandān*, pp. 243-44.