



ABU'L-FAẒL ẸOTTALĪ

ABU'L-FAẒL MOḤAMMAD B. ḤASAN ẸOTTALĪ (d. 453/1061?), preceptor of Abu'l-Ḥasan 'Alī Hojvīrī (d. 465/1073), the author of the celebrated Persian treatise on Sufism, *Kašf al-maḥjūb*. It is from this work that virtually our entire knowledge of Ẹottalī is derived (Samarqand, 1330/1912, pp. 208-09; Eng. tr. R. A. Nicholson, *The Kashf al-Maḥjūb: The Oldest Persian Treatise on Sufism*, GMS 17, new ed., London, 1936, pp. 166-67). Ẹottal, his birthplace, is said to have been a village near Dastgerd on the road to Khorasan (Moḥammad Ma'sūm Šīrāzī, *Ṭarā'eq al-ḥaqā'eq*, ed. M. J. Maḥjūb, Tehran, n.d., II, p. 584); there is, however, a better known area, bearing the same name, between the Vaḳšāb and the Oxus (Le Strange, *Lands*, p. 438). Ẹottalī was acquainted with *tafsīr* and tradition (*rewāyāt*), had been a disciple of Abu'l-Ḥasan 'Alī b. Ebrāhīm Ḥoṣrī (d. 371/981-82; concerning him see *Kašf al-maḥjūb*, p. 202), and followed the "sober" school in Sufism of Jonayd Baḡdādī (d. 298/910). He was a contemporary of Abu'l-Ḥasan b. Sāleba and Abū 'Amr (or 'Omar) Qazvīnī. Although many wondrous deeds gave evidence of his sainthood, he did not wear the garment of the Sufis or conform to their customs and was an enemy of the formalists (*aḥl-e rasm*) among them. He spent some sixty years in seclusion, mostly on mount Lokām near Aleppo, and died at Bayt al-Jenn, a village between Bānīās and Damascus.

Hojvīrī gives no date for his death; but the 13th/19th century hagiographer, Ḡolām Sarvar Lāhūrī, says that he found the date 453 in the margin of an old copy of 'Abd-al-Raḥmān Jāmī's *Nafaḥāt al-ons* (*Ẹazīnat al-aṣfīā'*, Lucknow, 1320/1920, II, p. 231). The date is unlikely, since it is too close to the probable



year of Hoĵvĳrĳ's death. The account of Ẹottalĳ in *Kař al-maĥĵĳb* contains several dicta of Ẹottalĳ: Jĳmĳ reproduces them and adds several more, also ascribing them to Hoĵvĳrĳ (*Nafaĥĳt*, pp. 315-16). Jĳmĳ's account is paraphrased by Ĝolĳm Sarvar (*Ẹazĳnat al-ařfĳĳ'* II, p. 231) and summarized by Mĳrzĳ Moĥammad 'Alĳ Modarres (*Rayĥĳnat al-adab*, 2nd ed., Tabrĳz, n.d., VII, p. 228).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Given in the text.