



ABU'L-FOTŪḤ EŞFAHĀNĪ

ABU'L-FOTŪḤ EŞFAHĀNĪ, AS'AD B. ABI'L-FAŽĀ'EL MAḤMŪD B. ḲALAF AL-'EJLĪ, known also by his *laqab* Montaĵab-al-dīn (or in some sources Montaĵab-al-dīn), a well-known Shafe'ite scholar and traditionist. Abu'l-Fotūḥ was born in Isfahan in 514/1120 or 515/1121, and studied traditions there with a number of leading scholars, including Omm Ebrāhīm Fāṭema, daughter of 'Abdallāh Jūzdānīya. Known for his piety and temperance, he refused to consume anything he had not earned by his own hand, and so supported himself by copying books and selling them. In 557/1161-62 he went to Baghdad to continue his studies in Hadith. The length of his stay in the capital is not known, but it was long enough to acquire the *ejāza* (license) of several Shafe'ite scholars of note. When he returned to Isfahan, Abu'l-Fotūḥ enlarged his reputation for skillful application of the law; his biographers report that his legal decisions were greatly relied upon in that important center of Shafe'ite learning. He died in Isfahan in 600/1203.

A number of works are attributed to Abu'l-Fotūḥ, although none appears to have survived. He wrote a *Šarḥ moškeḻāt al-Wajṯ wa'l-Wasīṯ le'l-Ġazālī*, a commentary on ambiguous points of law in Ġazālī's two works; and *Tatemmat al-tatemala*, on a work by Abū Sa'd Motawallī. Ebn al-'Emād mentions a third work, *Āfāt al-wo'āz*, composed toward the end of his life, shortly after he decided to give up his activities as a preacher. Abu'l-Fotūḥ's *nesba*, 'Ejlī, refers to a large and well-known division of the Iranian branch of the Banū Rabī'a.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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