



ADĪB PĪŠĀVARĪ

ADĪB PĪŠĀVARĪ, poetic name of SAYYED AḤMAD B. ŠEHĀB-AL-DĪN RAŽAWĪ. He was born near Peshawar ca. 1260/1844 and claimed descent from the noted Sufi Šehāb-al-dīn ‘Omar Sohravardī (539-632/1144-1234 A.D.). During his youth, his father and numerous relatives were killed in the border wars between the British and the Afghan tribes. In consequence, Adīb moved to Kabul and then Ġaznī, where he completed his early education. In 1877 he migrated to Iran, where he joined the *madrasa* of Ḥājjī Mollā Hādī Sabzavārī (d. 1295/1878) in Sabzavār. There he attended lectures in advanced philosophy. Eventually he settled in Tehran, where he died on 3 Šafar 1349/30 June 1930.

Adīb’s output of poetry comprises about 20,000 couplets. The selection published three years after his death consists mainly of *ġazals* and *qašīdas*; it amounts to about 4,200 Persian and 370 Arabic verses. He also wrote a lengthy *maṭnavī*, the *Qayšar-nāma*, which was dedicated to Kaiser Wilhelm II and extolled Germany’s role in World War I. Although Adīb belonged to the older generation of poets, he espoused, like some of his younger contemporaries, new social and political ideas. Thus he helped pioneer patriotic trends in Persian verse. His importance is that of a forerunner, whose early poems indicate tendencies which gained prominence during the constitutional period.



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