



ĀFĪ, ALLĀHYĀR KHAN

ĀFĪ, ALLĀHYĀR KHAN, b. 1233/1817-18, d. 21 Ramaẓān 1278/22 March 1861, poet, son of Nawwāb Amīr-al-dawla, the founder of the state of Tonk. Allāhyār Khan seems not to have participated in government administration or military affairs after his education and marriage; he is never referred to in such capacities in the detailed *Tārīk-eTōnk* of Aṣḡar ‘Alī Khan Ābrū (Agra, 1901). (He must not be confused with Allāhyār Khan Faṭḥ-e Jang, the Nawwāb’s son-in-law and a member of the defense council.) Āfī preferred a life of solitude and meditation and he often traveled to visit the mausoleums of Indian saints (Qāder-Baḡš Ṣāberī, *Golestān-e soḡan*, Lahore, 1966, p. 237). He had two daughters and a son, Moḡammad ‘Abd-al-Ra’ūf Khan, who was a poet with the pen name Wāfī.

Āfī wrote Persian verse for pleasure; he was guided in his technique by the prominent poet Nāṭeq Makrānī (d. 1264/1848) and acknowledged the latter’s aid, as in his *Golzār-e kayāl* (ms. in the Panjab University Library, Āzād collection, no. AP i VI 137, fol. 27). No copy of Āfī’s *divān* is known; only two *gazals* are preserved (Ābrū, *Tārīk*, p. 51; Ṣāberī, *Golestān*, pp. 237-38), both of which follow the model of Ḥāfeẓ. Āfī’s surviving *maṭnawī*, *Golzār-e kayāl*, was written in 1258/1842. In 376 verses it relates the tale of a prince, the beggar who befriended him, and the prince’s love for a girl whose portrait he had seen; each internal section concludes with two verses of advice and wisdom in the *sāqī-nāma* tradition. The text displays an adeptness in descriptive verse and general competence in the art of the *maṭnawī*.

Bibliography : Given in the text.