



AFŻAL-AL-DĪN KERMĀNĪ

AFŻAL-AL-DĪN KERMĀNĪ, ABŪ ĤĀMED AĤMAD B. ĤĀMED KŪHBONĀNĪ, writer, poet, and physician of Kermān in the 6th and early 7th/12th and early 13th centuries (introduction to M. E. Bāstānī Pārīzī, *Saljūqīān va Ġozz dar Kermān*, Tehran, 1343 Š./1964, p. 57); he is often called Afżal-al-dīn Kāteb (Nāşer-al-dīn Monşī Kermānī, *Semţ al-olā*, ed. 'A. Eqbāl Āştīānī, Tehran, 1328 Š./1949, p. 17). In his *Eqd al-olā* (ed. 'A. M. 'Āmerī, Tehran, 1311 Š./1932, p. 92), he mentions one of his teachers, Badī'-al-zamān Moĥammad b. Abi'l-Ma'ālī. Afżal was a boon companion of the Saljuq ruler in Kermān, Malek Toĝrel Shah (d. 565/1169-70), and his son Malek Arslān Shah (killed 572/1176); and he worked as a clerk (*monşī*) for the atabeg Moĥammad Bozqoş (d. 8 Ramażān 592/7 August 1196). He accompanied the shah, the atabeg, and the vizier Majd-al-dīn b. Nāşeh-al-dīn on most of their journeys to Bam and Jiroft (M. Bayānī, *Badāye' al-azmān*, Tehran, 1326 Š./1947, p. 68).

The famine of 577/1181 and contemporary disorders forced Afżal to leave Kermān, and he went to KŪhbonān and later to Yazd. During this time (in 582/1186) he corresponded with Jamāl-al-dawla Abu'l-Fatĥ, a scholar in Khorasan and apparently an expert on astronomy, about the prediction of conjunctions. In Ramażān, 581/December, 1185, when the Ġozz leader Malek Dīnār, at the invitation of the amir Mojāhed-al-dīn KŪhbonānī, advanced on Kermān and was struck in the face by an arrow during his capture of the castle of Rāvar, Afżal wrote verses about the incident which have been preserved. Subsequently, perhaps on the recommendation of the chamberlain (*wakīl al-dār*) Jamāl-al-dīn, Afżal joined Malek Dīnār's court (introd. to *Eqd al-*



'olā, p. 16). When he went to Yazd to fetch his wife and children, he received an offer from the atabeg of Yazd to become secretary of the court and director of the hospital of Yazd, but he refused and returned to Kermān, where he became a secretary (*dabīr*) of Malek Dīnār. It was at this time (584/1188) that he was encouraged by Jamāl-al-dīn, the vizier Qawām-al-dīn, and the head of the clergy (*malek al-'olamā'*) Nūr-al-dīn to write the *'Eqd al-'olā*, which he dedicated to Malek Dīnār. Under the sons of Malek Dīnār, who died in 591/1195, Afzal fell from favor, and we have no further reports of him. His complaints about the conditions of the day in *al-Możāf* suggest that he had come down in the world. He probably died ca. 615/1218, but it is not known where (introd. to *Saljūqīān va Ĝozz*, p. 101).

A small amount of Afzal's poetry has survived, including a *qaṣīda* in praise of Malek Dīnār. He conducted a *moṣā'ara* (poetic contest) in the presence of the atabeg Sa'd b. Zangī, the ruler of Fārs, and poems by him are quoted in the *Taḍkera-ye 'Arafāt* (ms. in the possession of Aḥmad Goļčīn Ma'ānī, folio 61). His works are as follows: (1) *'Eqd al-'olā le'l-mawqef al-a'lā*, on history, statecraft, and ethics, written for Malek Dīnār in 584/1188. (2) *Badāye' al-azmān fī waqāye' Kermān*, on the history of the Saljuqs of Kermān. No manuscripts of this work are extant, but parts of it were transcribed by other writers; these were assembled by Mahdī Bayānī under the title *Badāye' al-azmān*. The main part was transcribed and supplemented by a Kermānī historian named Moḥammad b. Ebrāhīm in the Safavid period (11th/17th cent.), and his work was incorporated by M. T. Houtsma in the *Recueil de textes relatifs à l'histoire des Seldjoudes*, Leiden, 1886, as vol. 1, *Tārīḳ-eSaljūqīān-e Kermān*; this has been reprinted, with a detailed introduction and notes by M. E. Bāstānī Pārīzī, under the title *Saljūqīān va Ĝozz dar Kermān*. (3) *Al-Możāf elā Badāye' al-azmān*, a supplement to the above, recording events in Kermān up to 613/1216; a ms. is extant in the Vatican library and has been printed, ed. 'A. Eqbāl Āštīānī and S. M. Hāšemī, Tehran, 1331 Š./1952. (4) A treatise on public health entitled either *Ṣalāḥ al-ṣeḥḥa* or *Ṣalāḥ al-ṣeḥāḥ fī'l-ṭebb*, ed. M. E. Bāstānī Pārīzī in the *Yād-nāma-ye Ḥabīb Yaġmā'ī*, Tehran, 2535 (1355 Š.)/1976.



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