



AHLĪ ŠĪRĀZĪ

AHLĪ ŠĪRĀZĪ, MAWLĀNĀ MOḤAMMAD, poet (858/1454?-942/1535). He apparently lived all his life in his native Shiraz. Of his parentage there is no record, and his life style was retiring and contemplative and probably, to judge from several complaints in his works, attended by poverty. His works include *gāzals*, *qaṣīdas*, *robāʿīs* (including a *sāqī-nāma* “book of the Saki” made up of this form), and other types. One ornamental *qaṣīda* imitates a famous rhetorical piece by Salmān Sāvajī. Prior to the Iranian Literary Return (*bāzgašt*), this poem was judged even more successful than Salmān’s original; but later Loṭf-ʿAlī Beg (*Ātaškada*) comments that such rhetorical devices are not the stuff of which true poetry is made. Of Ahlī’s *maṭnawīs*, an allegory on love entitled *Šamʿ o parvāna* (completed in 894/1489) is interesting for its treatment not only of the standard suffering of the lover (moth), but also of the affection that the beloved (candle) develops for the suffering lover, only for the two to be parted by “cruel fate” through the agency of the wind. Ahlī’s technical dexterity is apparent in his *maṭnawī* entitled *Seḥr-e ḥalāl* (Tehran, 1316/1898-99), written in imitation of both the *tajñīsāt* and the *Majmaʿ al-baḥrayn* of Kātebī; every line contains homophones (*tajñīs*), scans in two different meters, and has two separate rhymes (*duʿl-qāfiatayn*). Among those to whom Ahlī dedicated panegyrics were the Safavid Shah Esmāʿīl; the Āq Qoyunlū ruler of Tabrīz, Sultan Yaʿqūb; the Timurid vizier Mīr ʿAlī-Šīr Navāʿī of Herat; and a number of Safavid viziers and local dignitaries. Qāzī Nūrallāh Šoštari comments in the *Majāles al-moʿmenīn* that Ahlī’s *gāzals* have a “Saʿdiesque” flavor.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Selections may be found in contemporary and later anthologies, e.g., Sām Mīrzā, *Toḥfa-ye Sāmī*; 'Alī-Šīr Navā'ī, *Maǰāles al-nafā'es*; Lotf-'Alī Beg, *Ataškada*; Qodratallāh Gopamvī, *Natā'eǰ al-afkār*; Taḍkera-ye Našrābādī; Šoḥof-e Ebrāhīm; *Ḳolāṣat al-kalām*; Maḳzan al-ǧarāyeb. D. Šafā, *Ganǰ-e soḳan III*, Tehran, 1350 Š./1971, pp. 20ff.

Browne, *Lit. Hist. Persia* IV, pp. 233-34.