



'AJIB MĀZANDARĀNI

'AJIB MĀZANDARĀNI, MOḤAMMAD ḲALĪL B. MOḤAMMAD ḤOSAYN, poet (d. ca. 1280/1863 or 1289/1872). Born at Bārforuš (now Bābol), he moved with his father to Tehran when he was eight years old and at an early age began to compose poems. The panegyrics he declaimed at social gatherings gave him access to the court of Moḥammad Shah Qājār (1250-64/1834-48), where he recited a *qaṣida*. The shah changed his pen-name from Adīb to 'Ajib and attached him to the court. In his riper years he continued to attend public and private royal functions. During Nāṣer-al-dīn Shah's reign (1264-1313/1848-96), 'Ajib was a prolific eulogist of the shah and eminent men; at the same time he lived the life of a darvish and often voiced mystic themes. He also left verses in Arabic. Part of his work was collected by Moḥammad Serāj b. Ḥājji Mollā Rezā, one of his relatives who was the secretary of an 'ālem of Māzandarān named Sayf-al-eslām; this manuscript collection is now in the possession of Moḥammad Farahmand. 'Ajib traveled once, to Ḥājji Tarkān. He died at his birthplace.

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