



‘ALĪ, K̲VĀJA

‘ALĪ, K̲VĀJA, also known as SAYYED ‘ALĪ ‘AJAMĪ (b. ca. 770/1368-69, d. 830/1427 or 832/1429), an ancestor of the Safavid royal family, the son of Shaikh Ṣadr-al-dīn and grandson of Shaikh Ṣafī-al-dīn Ardabīlī. Trustworthy information about him is scarce, since almost all the sources date from the Safavid period and must be suspected of distortion. He succeeded his father in 794/1392 as leader of the Sufi order based at Ardabīl. He had a large following, and like his father was greatly respected, indeed venerated, by people in all walks of life. Tīmūr is reported to have been so impressed by him that he released a large number of war-prisoners at his request and assigned extensive estates to him as an endowment. According to another report, he married a granddaughter of the Jalayerid Ḥosayn I. He died at Jerusalem on his way back from a pilgrimage to Mecca.

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