



‘ALĪ MOTTAQĪ

‘ALĪ MOTTAQĪ, SHAIKH ‘ALA’-AL-DĪN B. ḤOSĀM-AL-DĪN ‘ABD AL-MĀLEK, a saint and Hadith scholar of India (885-975/1481-1567). Born at Borhanpur, he was first a pupil of Shah Bājen Čestī, though he received the Čestī investiture from Shah Bājen’s son, Shaikh ‘Abd-al-Ḥakīm. In Multan he became the pupil of Shaikh Ḥosām-al-dīn Moltānī Mottaqī. During the reign of Bahādoršāh (932-43/1525-36), he lived for a time at Ahmadabad but left the city when Bahādoršāh was defeated by Homāyūn in 941/1535. Finally migrating to Mecca and Medina in 953/1546, he lived there in the company of Shaikh Abu’l-Ḥasan Bakrī and Ebn Ḥaḡar Hayṭamī; from another Meccan resident, Shaikh Moḡammad Saḡāwī, he obtained the Qāderī and Šāḡelī investiture as well as further instruction in Hadith. ‘Alī Mottaqī commanded respect for his piety and learning not only from contemporary scholars but also from rulers: Both the Ottoman emperor Solaymān II (926-74/1520-66) and the Gujarat Sultan Maḡmūd III (943-61/1537-54) granted stipends for the pupils of his *madrasa*. ‘Alī Mottaqī was a prolific writer, mostly in Arabic. Zobayd Aḡmad lists eighteen of his extant works, including a major collection of Hadith, *Kanz al-‘ommāl* (8 vols., Hyderabad, 1312-13/1894-96). He inspired an Indian school of Hadith study that thrived for over 300 years and produced numerous outstanding scholars and saints. He died in Mecca (Ethé: Medina) on 1 Jomādā 975/4 November 1567 and was buried at Ma’lāh outside the city.



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