



‘ALĪ-QOLĪ KHAN WĀLEH

‘ALĪ-QOLĪ KHAN WĀLEH DĀĠESTĀNĪ (1124-69/1712-56), Persian poet at the Mughal court. He belonged to a noble family from Dāġestān; his ancestors held high posts under the Safavid kings. His father, Moḡammad ‘Alī Khan, was a military commander who left Wāleh orphan at the age of four. His early life passed amidst political disturbances caused by the capture of Isfahan by Maḡmūd Khan Afġān (1135/1722). The shock of the forced marriage of his cousin and betrothed Ḡadīja to a slave of Maḡmūd Khan coupled with the regime of Nāder Shah ultimately compelled Wāleh to leave for India. Ḡadīja suffered still more forced marriages and then died on her way to join Wāleh; her fate left a deep impact on his poetry. When he reached Lahore in 1147/1734, he met the mystic poet Shah Faḡīrallāh Āfarīn and Mīr Ḡolām-‘Alī Āzād Belgrāmī, who was to become his most intimate friend. He accompanied Belgrāmī to Delhi, where he was introduced to Moḡammad Shah, the Mughal Emperor, who conferred on him the title of Ḡafar Jang and a *manṣab* of four thousand. He remained in Mughal court circles until his death. He played an important role in shaping the literary taste of 18th century India; sympathetic toward the Persian poets of India, he condemned ‘Alī Ḥazīn for his severe criticism of their poetry. Wāleh’s *dīvān* was completed in 1157/1744-45; he wrote fine *ġazals*, though his fame rests mainly on his *Rīāz al-šo‘arā*, a *taḡkera* containing alphabetically arranged notices of 2,500 poets and an autobiographical *kātema* (see Storey, I, pp. 830-33).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also Ğolām-‘Alī Āzād Belgrāmī, *Kezāna-ye ‘āmera*, Cawnpore, 1871, p. 446.

Şeddīq Ḥasan Khan, *Şam‘-e anjōman*, Bhopal, 1292-93/1876, p. 492.

Bendrabān Dās Kvoşgū, *Safīna-ye Kvoşgū*, Patna, 1959, p. 293.