



## 'AMĪD-AL-DĪN SANĀMĪ

'AMĪD-AL-DĪN SANĀMĪ, K̄vĀJA FAK̄R-AL-MOLK, 7th/13th century Persian poet of India, panegyrist of Nāṣer-al-dīn Maḥmūd (r. 644-64/1246-66) and perhaps of Ġiāt-al-dīn Balban (r. 664-86/1266-87). Although much is known of 'Amīd's contemporaries, information on his life is scanty and contradictory, and only a few of his verses are preserved in biographical dictionaries. Badā'ūnī (II, pp. 96-99) quotes a panegyric of 'Amīd in praise of Nāṣer-al-dīn Maḥmūd, who assumed power in 644/1246, as well as other verses (II, p. 109), which indicate that 'Amīd was born in 601/1204-05, at the small town of Sa(n)nām, in the Frontier Provinces. In some biographies he receives the additional epithets Daylamī and Tūlakī, indicating that his ancestors had come originally from a place named Tūlak in Daylam. Iqbal Husain (*Persian Poets*, pp. 201-03) derives information on 'Amīd's life from Loṭf-'Alī Beg Āḍar, Reżā-qolī Khan, Lačhmī Narā'en Šafīq, and Taqī Awḥadī, who lived in the 11th/17th century and later; 'Amīd is said to have been court poet and later chief accountant under Balban's eldest son, Moḥammad Qā'ān, to have received the title Fak̄r-al-molk, and later to have been dismissed and imprisoned because of a discrepancy in the state accounts. But Baranī (d. after 758/1357, the historian closest to him in time, says nothing of this, and in fact 'Amīd's very association with Moḥammad's court is doubtful. By the time Balban divided the former territory of Šēr Khan between his two sons, with Moḥammad receiving Sind and the Punjab, 'Amīd must have been in his seventies. It is unlikely that he would have sought court patronage at that advanced age.

'Amīd's panegyrics conform closely to the Arabic model, with a tendency



towards employment of rhetorical devices, word-plays, and poetic conceits. Typical of this tendency is his *qaṣīda* in praise of Nāṣer-al-dīn, in which he selects a fairly difficult and uncommon end-rhyme (*radīf*) and maintains it with ingenuity throughout the twenty-two couplets of the poem. The other extant compositions of 'Amīd include a few fragments, a satirical piece (*hazl*), and a number of *ḡazals*. He is also considered the first Indian poet to have experimented, rather successfully, with the form known as *monāẓara* (strife-poem). His *ḡazals* resemble *tašbīhs* more than the conventional *ḡazal*: 'Amīd seems, therefore, to have been a poet principally of the *qaṣīda*. The exact date of his death is not known. According to *Ātaškada* (p. 841) he died at the age of fifty-four, but it is more likely that he died at a much more advanced age.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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