



AMRĪ ŠĪRĀZĪ

AMRĪ ŠĪRĀZĪ, ABU'L-QĀSEM MOḤAMMAD (d. 999/1590-91 [?], poet and Sufi from Kūhpāya, a village near Isfahan. In one of his poems he mentions serving the Safavid Shah Ṭahmās b I for thirty years before falling into disfavor in 973/1565-66 (*Haft eqlīm* II, pp. 431-32); thus he was probably born in the first quarter of the 10th/16th century. He came from a rich landowning family and soon became renowned as a scholar, a master of the occult sciences, and a Sufi; he traced his spiritual lineage to Bāyazīd (Nehāvandī, *Ma'āṭer-e Raḥīmī*, ed. M. Hedāyat Ḥosayn, Calcutta, 1924-31, III, pp. 1497-1506; partly tr. in *Ā'in-e Akbarī*, pp. 677-78). Amrī was held in great esteem by Shah Ṭahmāsb and is said to have controlled *awqāf* revenues, large sums of which he disbursed to scholars, Sufis, and travelers; he appointed *awqāf* officials and was surrounded by a retinue of poets, admirers, and disciples. Accused of subversion by jealous opponents, he was convicted of heresy and blinded in 973/1565. He withdrew to his native village and lived in seclusion, composing most of his poetry in this period. He wrote a eulogy to Shah Ṭahmāsb in which he exonerated himself; his confiscated property was returned, and he was granted a pension. According to Nehāvandī, Amrī died in his native village; according to Balyānī (*Arafāt-e 'āšeḡīn*, ms., in *Š. Kīā, Noḡṭawīān*, Tehran, 1320 Š./1941, pp. 58-61) and Reżā-qolī Khan Hedāyat (*Rīāz al-'ārefīn*, ed. M. Gorgānī, Tehran, 1344 Š./1965, pp. 275-76) he was executed in Shiraz in 999/1590-91 by Shah 'Abbās I as a *Noḡṭawī* heretic (see also Nafīsī, *Naẓm o naṭr*, p. 709). Nehāvandī states that Amrī employed his student and nephew, Mawlānā Daḡī, to arrange his poems, but the collection is lost; Balyānī estimates that Amrī wrote about 7,000 verses. The Nezārī Isma'īlis of Iran regard Amrī as a Nezārī,



and Ivanov, who examined Amrī's poems in Ismā'īli anthologies, considers his poems eulogies of Nūr-al-dīn and Morād Mīrzā, the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth Nezārī imams (Ivanov, *Ismaili Literature*, Tehran, 1963, pp. 144, 189). Amrī is author of *Resāla-ye dekr o fekr* and *Jawāb-e mer'āt al-ṣafā'*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also I. K. Poonawala, *Biobibliography of Ismā'īlī Literature*, Malibu, California, 1977, pp. 277-78.