



ĀQĀ ZANJĀNĪ

ĀQĀ ZANJĀNĪ, MĪRZĀ, also known as *Ḳamsa'ī*, a calligrapher active between 1286/1869-70 and 1307/1890. He belonged to the retinue of the grand vizier *Āqā Ebrāhīm Amīn-al-soltān* and his son *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan Amīn-al-soltān Atābak-e A'zam*. He is said to have instructed *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan* and his brother *Esmā'īl Khan Amīn-al-molk* in calligraphy. Principal examples of his work are found in architectural inscriptions that commemorate the benefactions of *Āqā Ebrāhīm* and *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan* to the shrines of Qom and Mašhad. Mašhad inscriptions range in date from 1275/1858-59 to 1306/1888- 89, encompassing the patronage of both *Āqā Ebrāhīm* and *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan*. The ones in Qom, dated 1303/1885-86 and 1304/1886-87, commemorate the addition of a new court, known as the *ṣaḥn-e now*, to the shrine of *Fāṭema Ma'šūma* on the eastern side of the shrine complex. It was begun in 1295/1878 under *Āqā Ebrāhīm* and was completed under the patronage of *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan*. He designed inscriptions for the courtyard facade as well as for its eastern doorway and its north and south *ayvāns*. Of particular interest is the inscription of the courtyard facade, written in *nasta'liq* on white and yellow glazed tiles. It consists of two *qaṣīdas* in praise of *Āqā Ebrāhīm* and *'Alī-Aṣḡar Khan* composed by *Abu'l-Naṣr Faṭḥallāh Khan Šaybānī*.

Mīrzā Āqā's son, *Moḥammad-Ḥosayn* was also a prominent calligrapher. He was appointed to teach calligraphy to the Qajar prince, *Moẓaffar-al-dīn Mīrzā*, and was given the title of *košnevīs-bāšī*. He remained active as a calligrapher and teacher until his death in 1328 Š./1949.



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