



‘ĀQEL KHAN RĀZĪ

‘ĀQEL KHAN RĀZĪ, MĪR ‘ALĪ ‘ASKARĪ B. MOḤAMMAD-TAQĪ K̲vĀFĪ, 11th/17th-century Indo-Muslim man of letters, historian, and mystic (d. 1108/1696). He belonged to a family of *sayyeds* from K̲vāf in Khorasan. He adopted the *taḳalloṣ* Rāzī from the name of his spiritual guide, the Šaṭṭārī saint Borhān-al-dīn Borhānpūrī called Rāz-e Elāhī (Storey, I, p. 584); the title ‘Āqel he received from his patron Awrangzēb, who bestowed it when he assumed the throne (1068/1658). He held several posts in Awrangzēb’s court and retired twice before he was appointed governor of the province of Delhi in 1092/1681, a post he held for almost sixteen years until his death (‘Āqel Khan Rāzī, *Wāqe‘āt-e ‘Ālamgīrī*, ed. with Eng. summ., Zafar-Ḥasan, Delhi, 1946, pp. 4-5). He seems to have devoted himself mainly to literary pursuits; he left a *dīvān* and several *maṭnawīs* (e.g., *Moraqqa‘*, *Šam‘ o porvāna*, *Mehr o māh*). He also wrote mystical meditations, compiled under the title *Naḡamāt al-Rāzī*, and collected the discourses (*malfūzāt*) of his spiritual master in a volume known as *Tamarāt al-ḥayāt* (Storey, I, p. 584). Of special historical importance is his account of the war of succession among Shah Jahān’s sons, entitled *Wāqe‘āt-e ‘Ālamgīrī* or *Zafar-nāma-ye ‘Ālamgīrī*, written between 1078/1667 and 1108/1696. Though not a witness to the events, he utilized the available official documents and consulted persons who had participated (*Wāqe‘āt-e ‘Ālamgīrī*, pp. 1-3).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

See also M. Aṭhar-‘Alī, *The Mughal Nobility under Awrangzīb*, repr., Bombay, 1970.

Marshall, *Mughals in India*, pp. 79-80.

(S. Maqbul Ahmad)