



ĀṬĀR AL-WOZARĀ'

ĀṬĀR AL-WOZARĀ', a biographical work on ministers and other officials, their policies and literary works, by Sayf al-dīn Ḥājjī b. Neẓām 'Aqīlī, written at Herat between 875/1470-71 and 892/1486-87. 'Aqīlī indicates in his preface that he had been employed in the administration under the Timurid noble and patron, K̄vāja Qewām-al-dīn Neẓām-al-molk K̄vāfi who was appointed Ḥosayn Bāyqarā's governor in Ray and Qom in 873/1468-69 and two years later became chief minister (removed in 892/1486-87). 'Aqīlī for years collected letters of rulers, ministers, and learned men, with contents ranging from praise to reproach and from serious to satirical material. Qewām-al-dīn (to whom the final work was dedicated) had asked for the anthology; 'Aqīlī first wanted to prepare for him a selection of the material he had, but later resolved to write a more extensive, biographical work.

The *Āṭār al-wozarā'* contains an introduction, describing the circumstances of the work's composition and giving a list of contents, and two discourses (*maqālas*). The first discourse, in twelve chapters, is on the viziers of the ancient kings and of the caliphs down to the viziers of the Timurids, while the second discourse, in four chapters, describes the life and works of Qewām-al-dīn.

'Aqīlī claims to have used a wide range of sources, e.g., Ṭabarī, the *Šāh-nāma*, K̄vāja Rašīd-al-dīn's *Jāme' al-tawārīk*, Awfī's, *Jāme' al-ḥekāyāt*, Tanūkī's *Faraj ba'd al-šedda*, Jorbadaqānī's Persian translation of 'Otbī's *al-Ta'rīk al-yamīnī*, Abu'l-Faẓl Bayhaqī's collection of Abū Naṣr Moškān's *Maqāmāt*, Jovaynī's *Tārīk-ejāhāngošā*, Maḥmūd Kotobī's *Tārīk-eāl-e Mozaffar*, and Nāṣer-al-dīn



Monšī Kermānī's *Nasā'em al-ashār*, of which in fact *Āṭāral-wozarā'* is largely a reworking, although it also incorporates some useful passages from older (and sometimes no longer extant) works. It antedates by several years K̄vāndamīr's *Dastūr al-wozarā'*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The work was edited by J. Moḥaddet̄ Ormavī, Tehran, 1337 Š./1958.

Nāṣer-al-dīn Monšī Kermānī, *Nasā'em al-ashār*, ed. J. Moḥaddet̄ Ormavī, Tehran, 1338 Š./1959.

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