



## AWḤAD-AL-DĪN KERMĀNĪ

**AWḤAD-AL-DĪN KERMĀNĪ**, ḤĀMED B. ABI'L-FAḶR, a famous mystic of the 6th/12th century. Dates of his death given in different sources range from 562/1166 to 635/1238. Since he was a contemporary of Shaikh Šehāb-al-dīn Sohravardī (d. 632/1235) and Moḥyī-al-dīn b. 'Arabšāhī (d. 638/1241), the most probable of these given dates must be 634/1237 or 635/1238. Jāmī (*Nafahāt*, p. 588) states that Awḥad-al-dīn was a disciple of Shaikh Rokn-al-dīn Sajjāsī and that he met and conversed with Moḥyī-al-dīn b. 'Arabī, and Ebn 'Arabī himself speaks (in chapter 8 of his *Fotūḥāt al-makkīya*) of an event which Awḥad-al-dīn Kermānī had related to him. Dawlatšāh states that Awḥad-al-dīn was a disciple of Šehāb-al-dīn Sohravardī, but we know that the two differed in their religious views and that Sohravardī regarded Awḥad-al-dīn as an innovator (*mobtade*). It is alleged (Ma'sūm-'Alīšāh, *Ṭarā'eq al-ḥaqā'eq* II, p. 281) that he had recourse to contemplation of outward appearances of forms in his quest for insight into the truth and perceived absolute beauty in concrete things.

Awḥad-al-dīn spent parts of his life in Kermān, Azarbaijan, and Baghdad where the 'Abbasid caliph al-Mostaṣfer Be'llāh (624/1227-640/1242) conferred a robe of honor on him and put him in charge of the Marzbānīya *rebāṭ* so that he might spend all his time there in prayer and remembrance of God.

Some poems of Awḥad-al-dīn Kermānī are quoted in various works. A narrative *matnawī* poem entitled *Mešbāḥ al-arwāḥ* (in the *hazaj mosaddas akṛab maqbūz* meter, that of Neẓāmī's *Laylī o Majnūn*) is attributed to him in most of the sources, but has been shown by B. Forūzānfar (in the preface to his edition of the *Mešbāḥ al-arwāḥ*, Tehran, 1347 Š./1968) to be the work of Šams-



al-dīn Moḥammad b. Toḡān Bardsīrī Kermānī, a poet of the 6th/12th century mentioned by 'Awfī (*Lobāb* I, p. 279-81). An edition with English translation of 120 *robāʿīs* by Awḥad-al-dīn Kermānī has been published (B. M. Weischer and P. L. Wilson, *Heart's Witness: The Sufi Quatrains of Awḥaddudīn Kermānī*, Tehran, 1978).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Kašf al-zonūn* (Istanbul) V, par. 1705.

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