



ĀYATĪ, 'ABD-AL-ḤOSAYN

ĀYATĪ, 'ABD-AL-ḤOSAYN (b. 1288/1871; d. 1332 Š./1953), son of Mollā Moḥammad-Taqī Āḳūnd Taftī, Bahā'i missionary, journalist, author, and teacher. After receiving traditional education in Yazd and in Iraq, he became the leader of the Friday prayer (*emām-e Jom'a*) in Yazd until he converted to Baha'ism. Then for eighteen years he acted as a missionary (*moballeḡ*) for his new faith in Turkestan, the Caucasus, the Ottoman Empire, and Egypt, during which time he met and associated with 'Abd-al-Bahā', and also wrote his *al-Kawākeb al-dorrīya fī ma'āter al-bahā'īya* in two volumes (Cairo, 1914; Arabic tr. by Aḥmad Fā'eq, Cairo, 1343/1924) on the history of Baha'ism. This is still one of the major works on the subject. He received the title Ra'īs-al-moballeḡīn (chief of missionaries) but later turned against Baha'ism, thereby being counted by the Baha'is among the *nāqezīn* or apostates. (Şadr Hāšemī, *Tārīk* IV, pp. 310-11). He returned to Tehran in 1343/1924 and served as a teacher in secondary schools for the rest of his life. During this period he wrote *Kašf al-ḥīal* in three volumes (Tehran, 1307-10 Š./1928-31 with several reprints) in refutation of Baha'ism. He also published the periodical *Namakdān* for six years and was a founding member of the Literary Society (Anjoman-e Adabī) of Yazd.

In his poetry he used the *taḳalloşes* Āvāra, Żīā'ī, and Āyatī. In prose he tried to use only purely Persian words. He has seventeen book titles to his credit (see Moşār, *Mo'alleftīn* III, cols. 718-20) of which a useful history of Yazd (*Ātaškada-ye yazdān*, Yazd, 1317 Š./1928) and *Ketāb-e nabīy yā Qor'an-e fārsī* (3 vols., Yazd, 1324-26 Š./1945-47) may be noted here.



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