



## BADĪLĪ, AḤMAD

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**BADĪLĪ**, SHAIKH AḤMAD, a Sufi shaikh in 6th/12th-century Sabzavār, renowned for his mastery of the exoteric as well as the esoteric science. The designation Badīlī—which was also his *takalloṣ*—appears to have arisen from the belief that he was a *badīl* (substitute), one of a seven or, more commonly, forty-member class of *awliā*. In 582/1186-87, Sultan Shah b. ʿĪl Arslān besieged Sabzavār in the course of his battles against ‘Alā’-al-Dīn Tekeš K̄vārazmšāh, and when the siege became protracted, the people of the city begged Shaikh Aḥmad Badīlī to intercede on their behalf. Accordingly he went out to the camp of Sultan Shah who received him with great respect and promised not to harm the Sabzavāris if they opened their gates to his army. The gates of the city were then opened, and Sultan Shah kept his promise.

Badīlī is said to have written poems, both *ḡazals* and quatrains, on mystical themes, as well as treatises; none of his writings are known to have survived except for a quatrain preserved by Jovaynī.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Jovaynī, II, pp. 24-25.



*Ḥabīb al-sīar* (Tehran) II, p. 636.