



BAĠDĀDĪ, ABU'L-FAẒL

BAĠDĀDĪ, ABU'L-FAẒL (d. 550/1155), sixth/twelfth century Sufi whose name appears in the initiatic chain of the Ne'matallāhī order. Together with Shaikh Abu'l-Najīb 'Abd-al-Qāher Sohrawardī (d. 563/1168), he is said to have been a *morīd* of the celebrated mystic and writer, Aḥmad Ġazālī (d. 520/1126). In his versified account of the Ne'matallāhī *selsela*, Shah Ne'mat-Allāh Walī (d. 834/1431), describes Abu'l-Faẓl Baġdādī as "the most accomplished of the accomplished" (*afẓal-e fāẓelān*), and regards him as the tenth link in the initiatic chain (quoted in Ma'sūm-'Alīšāh, *Ṭarā'eq al-ḥaqā'eq*, ed. Moḥammad-Ja'far Maḥjūb, Tehran, 1339 Š./1960, I, p. 458 and II, p. 326). Apart from the fact that Baġdādī was known for his extreme asceticism, and that his successor was a certain Abu'l-Barakāt (d. 570/1174), little else is known of him. The great Ne'matallāhī encyclopedist, Ma'sūm-'Alīšāh, has stated that Abu'l-Faẓl Baġdādī is also to be found in the Refā'ī *selsela* (*Ṭarā'eq al-ḥaqā'eq* II, p. 351), but this is doubtful. Various accounts of the Refā'ī *selsela* do mention a certain Abu'l-Faẓl b. Kāmel (or Kāmeḵ) as living two generations before Shaikh Aḥmad Refā'ī, but the *moršed* of this Abu'l-Faẓl was 'Alī Qāre' Wāseṭī, not Aḥmad Ġazālī (see As'ad Madanī, *al-Mosalsal*, Istanbul, n.d., p. 13, and introduction by Ḥosayn Nāẓem Helwānī to Shaikh Aḥmad Refā'ī, *al-Borhān al-mo'ayyad*, Damascus, n.d., p. 13).



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