



BESTĀMĪ, ŠEHĀB-AL-DĪN

BESTĀMĪ (Bastāmī), SHAIKH **ŠEHĀB-AL-DĪN** (d. 807/1405), a Sufi shaikh of Herat during the Timurid period. He began his career as an *‘ālem*, studying Hadith with Qoṭb-al-Dīn Yaḥyā Jāmī and *feqh* with Sayyed Jalāl-al-Dīn Kermānī. He then turned to asceticism, and soon became renowned for his piety. Numerous followers attached themselves to him as *moršed*, and two *kānaqāhs* were built for him, one by the wife of Malek Mo‘ezz-al-Dīn Ḥosayn of the local Kort dynasty, in the Kīābān area of Herat, and the other by the wife of Mīrānšāh, the Timurid, near the *bāzār* of Herat. Bestāmī is said never to have deigned to set foot in either *kānaqāh*, nor even to have glanced in its direction when passing by. Likewise, when K̄vāja Maḥmūd Šehāb, the minister of Tīmūr, constructed a *madrassa* for his use, he never consented to teach there, although he did appoint teachers to take his place. Despite Bestāmī’s disdain for rulers, he is said to have been respected by Tīmūr, who once accepted his intercession on behalf of the people of Herat. When he died in 807/1405, soon after Tīmūr, he was buried close to the tomb of Faḵr-al-Dīn Rāzī. His son, Mawlānā Šafi-Allāh (d. 838/1434), inherited Bestāmī’s influence and became Šayḵ-al-Eslām of Herat.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

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(Hamid Algar)