



BĪĠAMĪ

BĪĠAMĪ, MAWLĀNĀ SHAIKH ḤĀJĪ MOḤAMMAD b. Shaikh Aḥmad b. Mawlānā ‘Alī b. Ḥājī Moḥammad Ṭāherī (or Ṭāmerī), oral storyteller of the 8th/14th century, narrator of the romance *Dārāb-nāma*. The oldest manuscript of *Dārāb-nāma* is dated Du’l-ḥejja, 887/January-February, 1483, and internal evidence strongly suggests that Bīḡamī was alive at that time and that he dictated the story to Maḥmūd Daftarkvān, who wrote it down. Quotations in the text from Ḥāfeẓ give a terminus post quem consistent with this date. Frequent references in the text to “relaters of this tale” and “narrators of this story” and to “this old tale” suggest that Bīḡamī did not create the basic story of *Dārāb-nāma* but rather created this version of it. That he was an oral storyteller is further suggested by several statements that he was relating the story to his friends (*dar ḥozūr-e dūstān*). Nothing further is known of his life.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The text of part I of *Dārāb-nāma* was edited and published in 2 vols. by D. Šafā (Tehran, 1339-41 Š./1960-62).

Šafā’s introduction to vol. 1 and concluding remarks to vol. 2 discuss the existing evidence regarding Bīḡamī. The unpublished third part of the story (Uppsala Univ. Library Ms. 555, Zetterstéen Cat. 418, dated 1201/1787) adds



nothing to our knowledge of the storyteller.