



## BĪTĀB, 'ABD-AL-ḤAQQ

**BĪTĀB**, 'ABD-AL-ḤAQQ b. Mollā 'Abd-al-Aḥmad 'Aṭṭār, scholar and poet laureate (*malek al-šo'arā*) of Afghanistan, b. Kabul 1262 Š./1883, d. there 1347 Š./1968. He was a pious, retiring, and modest man, whose home became a center for poets and scholars seeking the benefit of his erudition.

'Abd-al-Ḥaqq spent most of his life in teaching and research. He began his career teaching Persian and Arabic in Kabul secondary schools and worked his way up to become professor of literature at the University of Kabul. He was well versed in Persian and Arabic literature and such other traditional disciplines as Islamic jurisprudence, traditions, and Qur'ān exegesis, as well as astronomy. A devout Sufi, he was a *kelāfa* of the Naqšbandī order.

As a poet he modeled himself on the poet laureate 'Abd-Allāh Khan Qārī (1288-1362 [1322 Š.]/1871-1943). In 1331 Š./1952, 'Abd-al-Ḥaqq himself succeeded to this honor. He characterized his own poetry as a mixture of styles typical of Khorasan and India, adding humorously that this combination reflected the position of Kabul—halfway between the two.

His published works include *Dīvān-e Bītāb*, 1330 Š./1951; four books on prosody and rhetoric (*Goftār-e ravān dar 'elm-e bayān*, Kabul, 1334 Š./1955; *'Elm-e badī'*, Kabul, 1330 Š./1951; *Meftāḥ al-ḡomūz dar 'elm-e qāfīa wa 'arūz*, Kabul, 1330 Š./1951; *'Elm-e ma'ānī*, Kabul, 1347 Š./1968); and a number of translations, including *al-Šāfīa* and *al-Kāfīa* by Jamāl-al-Dīn Abū 'Omar 'Oṭmān b. Ḥājeb (570-646/1174-1249), on grammar (Kabul, n.d.), and *Manāzel al-sā'erīn* by 'Abd-Allāh Anṣārī (published in *Adab* 10/3, 1341 Š./1962, pp. 31-90). One of



‘Abd-al-Ḥaqq’s poems was printed in *Rāhnamā-ye ketāb* 7/2, 1347 Š./1968-69, pp. 247-49.

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*Search terms:*

bitab,abdl hagh bitaab,abdol haq beetab, abdulhagh