



## DĀ'Ī ŠĪRĀZĪ

**DĀ'Ī ŠĪRĀZĪ**, AL-DĀ'Ī ELA'LLĀH SAYYED NEẒĀM-AL-DĪN MAḤMŪD (810-70/1407-65), known as Shah Dā'ī, poet, preacher, and leader of the Ne'mat-Allāhī Sufi order in Fārs. He was a descendent of Ḥasan b. Qāsem, known as al-Dā'ī al-ṣaḡīr, the fourth *dā'ī* (304-16/916-28) of the 'Alid dynasty of Ṭabarestān (see 'alids); hence his title Dā'ī ela'llāh. In poetry he used the pen name Dā'ī and sometimes Neẓāmī or Neẓāmī-e Ṭānī.

After receiving the customary education in religious sciences, Dā'ī joined the Ne'mat-Allāhī Sufis of Shiraz. Later, probably with the encouragement of Shaikh Moršed-al-Dīn Abū Eshāq Bahrānī, leader of the order in Shiraz, he traveled to Māhān in Kermān and received a "robe of guidance" from the founder of the order, Nūr-al-Dīn Moḥammad Ne'mat-Allāh Walī (d. 834/1431). After returning to Shiraz Dā'ī continued as a follower of Shaikh Moršed-al-Dīn, becoming leader of the order in Fārs after the latter's death in 851/1447.

Dā'ī was the author of several treatises in Arabic and Persian in which he treated a variety of mystical themes. They included *Šarḥ-e Maṭnawī*, a commentary on the *Maṭnawī* of Jalāl-al-Dīn Rūmī; *Nasā'em al-aṣḥār*, a commentary on Shaikh Maḥmūd Šabestarī's *Golšan-e rāz*; *Tahrīr al-wojūd al-moṭlaq*; *Ma'refat al-nafs*; *al-Fawā'ed fi'l-naql al-aqā'ed*; *Neẓām o saranjām*; and *Kašf al-marāteb*. His poetry, in Persian, Arabic, and the old dialect of Shiraz, was collected during his lifetime, in 865/1460, five years before his death. The collection was organized into six *maṭnawīs*, entitled respectively *Mašāhed*, *Ganj-e ravān*, *Čehel ṣabāḥ*, *Čahār čaman*, *Čašma-ye zendagānī*, and *Ešq-nāma*, and three *dīvāns* of *qaṣīdas*, *gāzals*, *robā'īs*, stanzas, and fragments entitled respectively



*Qodsīyāt*, *Wāredāt*, and *Šāderāt* (also called *Kān-e malāḥat*). The later poems were compiled in two collections entitled *Soḡan-e tāza* and *Fayż-e mojaddad*. All these works are included in the edition of his complete *dīvān* (ed. M. Dabīrsiāqī, 2 vols., Tehran, 1339 Š./1960). Dā'ī's poems were generally on mystical themes, written in simple, prosaic language lacking the refinement of the best Persian poetry. Nevertheless, his *Kān-e malāḥat* and the *Maṭnawī-e se goftār* appended to it, both in the old Shiraz dialect, are valuable sources for students of Iranian linguistics and philology. Dā'ī died in 870/1465 and was buried just outside the southern gate of Shiraz, which came to be known as Darvāza-ye Šāh Dā'ī (Shah Dā'ī gate). His tomb is still there.

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