



DEDE YŪSOF SĪNAČĀK

DEDEYŪSOF SĪNAČĀK (b. Yenice on the Vardar in Ottoman Māqadūniā [modern Macedonia] at an indeterminate date, d. Istanbul, 861/1546), Mawlawī Sufi shaikh, poet, and author. He was born to a family of scholars originally from Edirne and educated by his father. He became shaikh of the Mawlawī convent (*mawlawī-kāna*) at Yenice, but he moved to Istanbul when the governor expropriated the endowments of the convent (Tāqeb Dede, II, pp. 20-22). According to Qenālīzāda (p. 1085) and Āšeq Čelebī (fol. 98a), Dede Yūsuf then gave up studying the religious sciences and went to Egypt, where he became a disciple of the mystic Ebrāhīm Golšanī (d. 940/1533), founder of the Golšanīya order. He seems to have continued his association with Golšanī for only a short time before making the pilgrimage to Mecca and traveling on to Jerusalem, where he remained for several years in the Mawlawī convent; he then went on to Iraq to visit the tombs of the Shi'ite imams, and thence to Konya, where he became shaikh of the Mawlawī order. He finally settled in Istanbul, where he died in the retreat of Sütlüce** in 953/1546.

Dede Yūsuf is best known for his *Jazīra-ye maṭnawī*, a selection of 366 verses from Rūmī's *Maṭnawī*. It enjoyed great popularity among the Mawlawīs and became the subject of commentaries by 'Elmī Dede (d. 1020/1611), 'Abd-al-Majīd Sīvāsī, Ġaleb Dede (d. 1213/1799) in his *Lamaḥāt al-lama'āt baḥr al-Maṭnawī be šarḥ Jazīrat al-maṭnawī*, the Turkish poet and calligrapher Ebrāhīm Jevrī (d. 1065/1654-55), and 'Abd-Allāh Bosnavī (d. 1054/1644; Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Istanbul, Nafiz Paşa ms. no. 528). A similar selection from Solṭān Walad's *Rabāb-nāma* is lost. Dede Yūsuf's own poetry,



written in Persian, though considered to be of high quality, reveals Ḥorūfī (cf. 'Ašeḡ Čelebī, fol. 98b) and Shi'ite tendencies; it remains unpublished.

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