



DORRAT AL-NAJAF

DORRAT AL-NAJAF (Pearl of Najaf), monthly religious journal published in Persian at Najaf in southern Iraq at the end of the first decade of the 20th century. It was preceded by the monthly *al-Ġarī*, which began publication on 18 Du'l-ḥejja 1327/31 December 1909; the second issue, dated 18 Šafar 1328/29 February 1910, was, however, seized by the Ottoman governor of Iraq. After obtaining new permission for publication the publisher changed the name of the journal to *Dorrat al-Najaf*; the first issue appeared on 20 Rabī' I 1328/1 April 1910. It ceased publication with the combined nos. 7 and 8, which appeared in Du'l-qa'da 1328/November 1910.

The proprietor and publisher of *Dorrat al-Najaf* was Ḥājj Ḥosayn Ešfahānī, the editor-in-chief Āqā Moḥammad Maḥallātī; both were connected with [Ākūnd Mollā Moḥammad-Kāzem Korāsānī](#), one of the great Shi'ite leaders and a supporter of the [Constitutional movement](#) in Persia. Among noteworthy contributors was the Shi'ite scholar Shaikh [Āqā Bozorg Ṭehrānī](#). The articles were written in very complex Persian, rich in Arabic terms and idioms used by Shi'ite clerics. It may have been for that reason that the journal did not achieve a wide audience and ceased publication after only a few issues.

Dorrat al-Najaf was printed from lead type at the 'Alawī publishing house in Najaf. It consisted of between thirty-two and sixty-two pages, measuring 14 by 21 cm, and carried no illustrations or advertisements. A number of koranic quotations appeared on the cover, along with the title and the date of publication. An annual subscription cost 2 Ottoman *majīdīs*. Issues of the journal are available in the library of the Faculty of theology (Dāneškada-ye



elāhīyāt) and the central library at Tehran University, the library of Āstān-e qods-e rażawī in Mašhad, and the library of Isfahan University.

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