



EBN ḤOSĀM K̄ĀFĪ, MOḤAMMAD

EBN ḤOSĀM K̄ĀFĪ (or K̄ūsfi), MOḤAMMAD, a poet of the 9th/15th century. Living in the village of K̄ūsfi, near Bīrjand, Ebn Ḥosām was a farmer by trade and remained unattached to any of the rulers and powerful men of his time. It appears from his works that he was a learned Shiʿite, well versed in literature, jurisprudence, and the biographies and traditions relating to major figures in Islam—an expertise that he put to good use in his *qaṣīdas* dedicated to them. He also knew Arabic language and literature and included a few Arabic *bayts* in his *qaṣīdas*. He is also the author of *Kāvarān-nāma* (or *Kāvar-nāma*), composed in the *motaqāreb* meter (comp. 830/1426-27), which is the oldest religious epic in Persian literature. Its theme, the hypothetical journey of ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭāleb to the land of Kāvarān and his exploits there, was borrowed, according to the author, from an Arabic source. Ebn Ḥosām died in 875/1470 (Dawlatšāh, ed. Browne, p. 438-39; Qāzī Nūr-Allāh, p. 509; the date 893/1488 given in *Ḥabīb al-sīar* IV, p. 336 is incorrect). His grave still stands in the village of K̄ūsfi.



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