



‘EMĀD-AL-DĪN MAḤMŪD

‘EMĀD-AL-DĪN MAḤMŪD b. Serāj-al-Dīn Mas‘ūd ŠĪRĀZĪ, the most prominent member of a 16th-century family of physicians in Shiraz. His grandfather, also named ‘Emād-al-Dīn Maḥmūd, had been physician to Shah Esmā‘īl I (r. 907-30/1501-24). The younger ‘Emād-al-Dīn Maḥmūd studied medicine with his father and taught a number of students himself. Early in his career ‘Emād-al-Dīn Maḥmūd was in the service of ‘Abd-Allāh Khan Ostājīlū, governor of Šīrvān. After incurring the governor’s wrath, he received the punishment of spending one night outdoors in the cold and snow. He resorted to opium during that night and, although he recovered from the immediate effects of the cold, he had a tremor (*ra‘ša*) for the remainder of his life (Eskandar Beg, I, p. 168; Richter-Bernburg, p. 106). He became an *afyūnī*, opium-eater, convinced of the therapeutic value of opium. Following twenty years of practice, he was retained in direct service to Shah Ṭahmāsb (r. 930-84/1524-76). Later he was appointed physician-in-residence at a hospital in Mašhad, where he spent the remainder of his life. The precise date of his death is unknown.

He composed an Arabic pharmacopoeia of compound remedies, titled the *Ketāb al-morakkabāt al-šāhīya* and dedicated it to Shah Ṭahmāsb. In this work he provides various autobiographical details. In 973/1565-66 he wrote a commentary in Arabic on the anatomical portions of the *Ketāb al-qānūn fī’l-ṭebb* by Avicenna (q.v.; Zillurrahman, pp. 15-16) and later an Arabic monograph on anatomy (Ḥaddād and Biesterfeldt, pp. 125-26, no. 89), both dependent upon the 7th/13th-century anatomical writings of Ebn al-Nafīs.

In 977/1569, while in Mašhad, he composed the first Persian monograph on



syphilis (*Resāla-ye ātašak*). He also wrote an important treatise in Persian on China root (*čūb-e čīnī*), the rhizome of an Old World species of smilax found in eastern Asia and advocated for the treatment of syphilis (See DĀRČĪNĪ). A second treatise on the subject (*Resāla-ye čūb-e čīnī*), in which the author speaks of twenty years’ experience in India, is often falsely attributed to him (Storey, II, p. 242). Reflecting his own experience, he wrote a treatise in Persian on the medical and addictive properties of opium (*Resāla-ye afyūn*). His other preserved Persian writings include works on the bezoar stone (*Resāla-ye pāzahr*), on cupping (q.v.), and on poisons and antidotes (*Resāla-ye somūm*), as well as a general medical manual (*Setta žarūriya tebbīya*). Early modern European influence can be seen in many of these medical writings, although it is not certain whether particular treatises should be attributed to the younger physician or his grandfather.

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