



‘EMĀDĪ RĀZĪ

‘EMĀDĪ RĀZĪ, well-known poet of the first half of the 6th/12th century. His real name is not known, but his reputation as ‘Emādī, according to his contemporary Rāvandī, derives from the title of his first patron ‘Emād-al-Dawla Farāmarz b. Rostam (q.v.), the ruler of Māzandarān from 515/1121 (Rāvandī, p. 210). Some hagiographers and, following them, most modern scholars maintain that he was a native of Šahrīār of Ray (*Ātaškada*, pt. III, p. 1039; Nafīsī, *Naẓm o naṭr* I, p. 82; Šafā, *Adabīyāt* II, p. 743). His date of death is also disputed. Quoting Taqī-al-Dīn Kāšī, Qazvīnī records his death in 573/1177 (p. 270), which agrees with the date given by Āḍar Bīgdelī (*Ātaškada*, pp. 574, 1094). Muhammad Iqbal, however, quoting the index of Rieu’s *Persian Manuscripts*, records his death in 582/1186 (*Rāḥat al-šodūr*, p. 57, n. 1). After the death of ‘Emād-al-Dawla, ‘Emādī left Māzandarān for Iraq, where he entered the service of the Saljuqid Ṭoġrel b. Moḥammad b. Malekšāh.

Compared with other Persian poets of the 6th/12th century, ‘Emādī’s poetry is distinguished by simplicity of diction, clarity of imagery, and absence of intricate syntax (Forūzānfar, p. 519), which made Šams-e Qayṣ-e Rāzī quote one of his *ġazals* as an example of a fine poem with a pleasant meter (p. 416). Reference to him and quotations of his poetry by contemporary or near-contemporary poets attest to his fame and wide recognition as a poet (e.g., Anwarī, I, p. 487, II, p. 760; Ḥasan Ġaznavī, pp. 190, 198, 228; Sanā’ī, p. 87; Adīb Šāber, introd., pp. yhá). The only extant manuscript of ‘Emādī is preserved at the British Library (Or. 298; with a photostatic copy [no. 4828] housed at the Central Library of Tehran University). It contains 1,500 verses of *qašīdas*,



g̃azals, qeṭ‘as, and robā‘īs.

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