



ENŠĀ'-ALLĀH KHĀN, SAYYED

ENŠĀ'-ALLĀH KHĀN, SAYYED, Urdu-Persian poet and writer (b. in Moršedābād in 1169/1756 and d. in Lucknow in 1233/1818; Pervez, p. 23). His forefathers are said to have emigrated to India from Najaf during the reign of Farroḵsīar (1124-31/1713-19; Sandelavī, fol. 43). In 1763, hostilities in Moršedābād forced his father, Māšā-Allāh Khan, to move to Fayzābād and then to Delhi. Only sixteen years of age, Enšā'-Allāh Khan joined the poets in Nawwāb Šojā'-al-Dawla's employ in Fayzābād (Sandelavī, fol. 43). Enšā'-Allāh Khan moved to Delhi in 1193/1779, the year Mīrzā Najaf Khan established himself in Delhi, and after Šojā'-al-Dawla's death Enšā'-Allāh enrolled in Mīrzā Najaf's army (Bhagwān, p. 19). There he emerged as an important literary figure and drew the attention of such luminaries as Mīrzā Maḏhar Jān-e Jānān, Qodrat-Allāh Khan Qāsem, and Mīrzā 'Aẓīm Beg, whom he offended in a poetic assembly by a satirical poem. Hardships forced him to leave Delhi; he went to Lucknow in 1202/1788 after serving a short period in the army of Moḥammad Beg Hamadānī (Pervez, p. 25; Sandelavī, fol. 43). In Lucknow he lived an esteemed life under the patronage of Almās-'Alī Khan, Mīrzā Solaymān Šokūh, and Navvāb Sa'ādat-'Alī Khan and was in constant touch with such poets as Rangīn, Jor'at, and Mošḥafī, although his relations with the latter were touched by poetic enviousness. Enšā'-Allāh's employment under Sa'ādat 'Alī Khan is regarded as the most important period of his career as he gained social and scholarly recognition. He ended his active career as a courtier there.

A multilingual poet, Enšā' had full command of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali, and Pashto (Yaktā, p. 105). His collected works (*Kollīyāt*,



Lahore, 1969) comprises Urdu and Persian lyrics, *qaṣīdas*, *maṭnawīs*, quatrains, strophes, and riddles. He also composed in what later was called Urdu (*rēkta*). His Persian *maṭnawīs* include *Šīr-berenj*, *Šekār-nāma*, and *Ṭūr al-asrār*. His works in prose include *Daryā-ye laṭāfat*, a work on Urdu linguistics and grammar written in Persian in 1222/1807 with the collaboration of the poet Mīrzā Moḥammad-Ḥasan Qatīl (Moršedābād, 1850, Awrangābād, 1916); *Torkī rūz-nāmča* in Turkish; *Laṭā'ef al-sa'ādat*, a work on wits, in both Persian and Urdu; *Rānī keytki kī kahānī*, a romantic story in Urdu (Karachi, 1955); and *Selk-e gowhar*, a collection of tales in Urdu (ed. E. 'A. 'Aršī, Rampur, 1948).

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