



‘EŠQĪ‘AZĪMĀBĀDĪ, SHAIKH MOḤAMMAD WAJĪH-AL-DĪN

‘EŠQĪ‘AZĪMĀBĀDĪ, SHAIKH MOḤAMMAD WAJĪH-AL-DĪN, 18th-19th century poet and writer in Persian and Urdu (d. after 1223/1808). He was a native of ‘Azīmābād (Patna) in Behār, and lived for some time in Dhāka. He came from a learned family; his father, Shaikh Ġolām-Ḥosayn, was a poet of Persian writing under the pen name *Mojrem*. ‘Ešqī studied until his youth with his father. He learned the art of poetry from Shah Moḥammad Wafā, a pupil of the celebrated Indo-Persian poet ‘Abd-al-Qāder Bīdel (1054-1133/1644-1721, q.v.). From a reference in *Neštar-e ‘ešq* (p. 95) it may be assumed that he was still alive in 1223/1808, though his eyesight had been impaired due to sickness. ‘Ešqī is said to have composed a *dīvān* in Persian comprising *ġazals*, *robā’īs*, and a short *matnawī* (Sprenger, p. 442). According to his own statement his efforts were mostly devoted to the writing of works in Persian, and he was less interested in Urdu (*Dō taḍkerē* II, p. 94). He has left a *taḍkera* of Urdu poets in Persian which was probably completed in 1215/1800 (Sprenger, p. 184).

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