



‘EZZ-AL-DĪN KĀŠĀNĪ, MAḤMŪD

‘EZZ-AL-DĪN KĀŠĀNĪ, MAḤMŪD b. ‘Alī Naṭanzī, an author and Sufi of the early 8th century (d. 735/1334-35). All that is known about ‘Ezz-al-Dīn’s life is that he was a Shafī’ite of Ash‘arite persuasion, studied under Ṣāḥib-al-Dīn ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān b. Shaikh Najīb-al-Dīn ‘Alī Bozḡoš Šīrāzī, and received his mystic training from Nūr-al-Dīn ‘Abd-al-Ṣamad Eṣfahānī in Naṭanz (hence his *nesba* Naṭanzī in some sources). ‘Ezz-al-Dīn is known for his *Meṣbāḥ al-hedāya*, a valuable Persian manual of mystic ideas, mainly based on Šehāb-al-Dīn Sohrawardī’s *‘Awāref al-ma‘āref* (q.v.) and containing useful information about the rites and customs in the *kānaqāh*. It is arranged in ten chapters, each chapter being further divided into ten sections. In spite of the frequent use of Arabic vocabulary and phrases, the lucidity and variety of expressions and idioms in Persian make it a valuable text for the students of Persian. The poet ‘Emād Faqīh Kermānī’s *Ṭarīqat-nāma* is a versified version of the *Meṣbāḥ*.

‘Ezz-al-Dīn is also the author of *Kaṣf al-wojūh al-ḡorr le-ma‘ānī naẓm al-dorr*, a commentary in Arabic on Ebn al-Fāreż’s mystical *qaṣīda* “al-Tā’īya al-kobrā.”



BIBLIOGRAPHY

(for cited works not given in detail, see “Short References”):

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‘Ezz-al-Dīn Maḥmūd Kāšānī, *Meṣbāḥ al-hedāya wa meftāḥ al-kefāya*, ed. J. Homā‘ī, 3rd ed., Tehran, 1367 Š./1988, editor’s intro. Nūr-al-Dīn ‘Abd-al-Raḥmān Jāmī, *Nafaḥāt al-ons*, ed. M. ‘Ābedī, 3rd ed., Tehran, 1375 Š./1996, comm. p. 869.

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