



FAḲR-E MODABBER

FAḲR-E MODABBER, pen-name of Moḥammad b. Maṣṣūr b. Saʿīd, entitled *Mobārakšāh*, author of two prose works in Persian written in India in the late 6th/12th and early 7th/13th century, a book on genealogy with no formal title and the famous *Ādāb al-ḥarb waʾl-šajāʿa* (q.v.). Most of the available information about Faḳr-e Modabber comes from remarks in his books where, unfortunately, he comments more often about his ancestors than about himself. He gives a detailed genealogy in both books (*Šajara-ye ansāb*, 1927, p. 62; *Ādāb al-ḥarb*, 1967, p. 15), and in each passage he describes himself as “a frail old man” (*pīr-e zaʿīf*). As internal evidence in the texts shows that the books were composed at different periods, this coincidence illustrates the complicated scribal history of the manuscripts and makes it difficult to use the statement as a basis for estimating the approximate date of the author’s death (*pace* Bosworth, *EI2*). However, since Faḳr-e Modabber appends the title *Nāṣer Amīr-al-Moʿmenīn* to the name of the ruler *Šams-al-Dīn Ēltotmeš* (r. 607-33/1211-36; q.v.) in his *Ādāb al-ḥarb* (p. 16), it does seem likely that the book was written after 626/1229, when the sultan received this title from the caliph (see Bazmee Ansari, p. 1155; Aḥmad, 1963, p. 346; Storey, I/2, p. 1165).

Faḳr-e Modabber’s book on genealogy, variously referred to as *Šajara-ye ansāb-e Mobārakšāhī* or *Baḥr al-ansāb*, was partially edited by Sir Edward Denison Ross, who erroneously attributed the work to another *Mobārakšāh*, the poet Faḳr-al-Dīn Abū Saʿīd *Mobārakšāh* b. Ḥosayn Marverūdī (on whom see ʿAwfī, *Lobāb* I, pp. 125-33; Ebn al-Aṭīr, XII, p. 242-43; and Storey/de Blois V/2, pp. 417-20). The extended preface, the only part of the unique manuscript



edited by Denison Ross, contains a wealth of observations on diverse subjects, including the virtues of the Turks and historical anecdotes about the Ghurid ruler Mo‘ezz-al-Dīn Moḥammad (r. 569-602/1173-1206) and the Delhi sultans Qoṭb-al-Dīn Aybak (r. 602-7/1206-10; q.v.) and Šams-al-Dīn Ēltotmeš. Much of the preface, particularly the geographical sections, seems to have been culled from earlier sources (Validi).

The *Ādāb al-ḥarb wa’l-šajā’a* has been described in an earlier article (Bosworth, *EIr* I, p. 445); however, it should be noted that six additional chapters of this work, which are included in the manuscript of a slightly different redaction entitled *Ādāb al-molūk wa kefāyat al-mamlūk* (Ethé, *Catalogue* I, col. 1493, no. 2767), have now been edited and published by Moḥammad Sarvar Mowlā’i.

See also [DELHI SULTANATE](#).

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