



FANĪ KAŠMĪRĪ

FANĪ, pen name of Shaikh MOḤAMMAD-MOḤSEN b. Ḥasan KAŠMĪRĪ (d. 1081/1670-71), Indo-Persian scholar and poet, to whom the *Dabestān-e-maḏāheb* (q.v.) has wrongly been attributed (‘Askarī, p. 85). He studied under Mulla Ya‘qūb Šarfī (d. 1013/1605) and Mulla Wāṣeb, a Persian poet from Kashmir (Ḥasan Khan, p. 308). The poets Mulla Ṭāher Ġanī (d. 1079/1688) and Moḥammad Aslam Sālem (d. 1119/1707 or 1130/1717-18), both from Kashmir, studied with him at Madrasa-ye Qoṭbīya in Srinagar, Kashmir (Košgū, p. 348; Lodī, p. 161; Ḥasan Khan, p. 308). Fānī was attached to the courts of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahān (r. 1037-68/1628-57), who appointed him as the chief judge (*šadr*) of Allahabad province (Eklāš, p. 184), and that of the heir apparent Dārā Šokūh (1024-69/1615-59, q.v.). At Allahabad he joined the circle of the celebrated Češtī Shaikh Moḥebb-Allāh Allāhābādī (d. 1058/1648), from whom he received the Sufi robe (*kerqa*; Fānī, *Mey-kāna*, p. 201; Qodrat-Allāh, p. 541). He was, however, dismissed from the royal service when, following the conquest of Balk, a copy of his *dīvān* containing panegyrics in praise of Nāder Moḥammad Khan, the Ozbek ruler of Balk, turned up among the spoils of war (Šāleḥ, p. 370). He was granted a stipend and settled down in Kashmir, where he devoted his time to teaching and his residence (*ḥawż-kāna*) became a gathering place for both men of letters and ranking officials, including the governor of Kashmir (Lodī, p. 167). Fānī’s *dīvān* consists of *ġazals*, *qašīdas*, quatrains, and four *maṭnawīs*: *Nāz o nīāz*, a love story in 1,928 couplets (comp. 1062/1652) of Sayyed Mūsā of Kālpī and the wife of a Hindu goldsmith, also narrated by Badā’ūnī (*Montakab* II, pp. 109-18; tr. II, pp. 113-22); *Mey-kāna*, on the topography of Kashmir in 1,273 couplets, composed at an advanced age;



Maşdar al-āṭār, a religious *maṭnawī* in 1,607 couplets, completed in 1067/1656-57 after the model of Neẓāmī Ganjavī's *Maḳzan al-asrār*; *Haft aḳtar* (comp. 1068/1657-58), the love-story of a young Persian king and Ƙoršīd, a Chinese prince. Fānī's use of Hindi words adds Indian color to his poetry. Fānī is also the author of two prose works *Šarḥ 'ayn al-'elm* and *Najāt al-mo'menīn* (Şafā, *Adabīyāt* III, pp. 1285-88).

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