



FARĪD

FARĪD b. Shaikh Ma'rūf BHAKKARĪ, author of an important biographical dictionary in Persian of Mughal notables, the *Ḍaḳīrat al-ḳawanīn*. Nothing is known of the life of Shaikh Farīd Bhakkarī beyond the few autobiographical details mentioned in his book. From these, it appears that he was in the bureaucratic service of several Mughal dignitaries, including Abu'l-Faḥḥ Dakkanī (until his death in ca. 1023/1614); Nūr Nesā' Begam, wife of the Jahāngīr; Khan Jahān Lōdī during his governorship of Multan and subsequent revolt (1029-40/1631); Mahābat Khan Ḳān-e Ḳānān; and others (full details in Farīd Bhakkarī, tr. Desai, I, pp. xiv-xxi). He finished compiling the *Ḍaḳīra* in 1061/1650. Although written in an often obscure and rambling, anecdotal style, this work is significant for its early date, its attention to both high and low-ranking Mughal officials, and its wealth of information gleaned from personal experience and primary sources. Among the biographical notices are many devoted to Hindu *manṣabdārs* with whom the author worked and socialized and of whom he speaks approvingly. He is relatively free from religious bias in his accounts and was clearly quite familiar with Hindu customs and the Hindi language, even citing Hindi proverbs and poetry. 'Abd-al-Razzāq Šāhnavāz Khan Awrangābādī criticized the *Ḍaḳīra* severely as based on "hearsay," but nonetheless exploited it freely and extensively in his own more famous biographical dictionary, the *Ma'āṭer al-omarā'*.



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