



## FARĪD ESFARĀYENĪ, MALEK- AL-ŠO‘ARĀ’ K̲VĀJA FARĪD-AL- DĪN AḤWAL

**FARĪDES FARĀYENĪ** (or Ešfahānī), Malek-al-Šo‘arā’ K̲vāja FARĪD-AL-DĪN AḤWAL (the squint-eyed), 13th-century Persian poet, whose dates of birth and death are not known (d. after 663/1264). After receiving the traditional education of the time, he left his home town for Isfahan, where he entered the service of the Āl-e Šā‘ed (see ŠĀ‘EDĪĀN), the leaders of the Hanafites of Isfahan, and composed panegyrics about them. He later went to Shiraz and joined the court of Salghurid Moẓaffar-al-Dīn Abū Bakr Sa‘d b. Zangī (623-58/1226-60, q.v.); he belonged in particular to the circle of Atābak’s son, Sa‘d b. Abī Bakr (d. 658/1259), who was a generous patron of literature and whom he panegyricized in many poems. After the latter’s death, Aḥwal stayed at the Salghurid court, writing poetry in praise of Moḥammadšāh (r. 660-61/1262-63), Saljūqšāh (r. 661-63/1262-63), and Ābeš Kātūn (r. 663-68/1265-70, q.v.).

Aḥwal left a *Dīvān* of over 3,000 verses. Much of his poetry is characterized by the use of difficult rhymes and refrains (*radīf*) and the preponderance of embellished rhetorical devices, particularly in his *qaṣīdas*, many of which are in emulation of former masters of the genre. He demonstrates special talent in poetic description of objects, which includes masterful pieces describing a mirror, a candle, a rooster, the sun, spring, the sky, sphere, etc. The language of his poetry is dignified and is in the other style of the poets of the end of the



12th and the beginning of the 13th century.

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