



FEDĀ'Ī ḲORĀSĀNĪ, MOḤAMMAD

FEDĀ'Ī ḲORĀSĀNĪ, MOḤAMMAD, b. Zayn-al-Ābedīn b. Karbalā'ī Dāwūd (b. ca. 1266/1850; d. 1342/1923), foremost Persian Nezārī Isma'īli author and poet of modern times, who is referred to as Ḥājī Āḳūnd in the Persian Nezārī community. Fedā'ī was born in Dezbād/Dīzbād or Dezbād-e Bālā (Razmārā, *Farhang* IX, p. 180), an Isma'īli village in the mountains between Mašhad and Nīšāpūr in northern Khorasan. He was a descendant of Emāmqolī Ḳāḳī Ḳorāsānī, an important Nezārī poet of the Safavid times (d. after 1056/1646). After completing his early education in Dezbād and Darrūd, another Isma'īli village near Nīšāpūr, Fedā'ī spent some time in Mašhad, studying the religious sciences, including *feqh* and *kalām*, at the Bāqerīya *madrassa* (Herātī, Intro., p. 3).

In 1313/1896, Fedā'ī set off on the first of his three journeys to India to see the Nezārī imam of the time, Solṭān Moḥammadšāh Āqā Khan III (1885-1957; see [ĀQĀ KHAN](#)). In 1317/1900, Fedā'ī visited Bombay again and stayed there for a few years, also gaining access to Āqā Khan's valuable library. In 1321/1903, the Nezārī imam finally gave an audience (*dīdār*) to Fedā'ī and on that occasion issued a *farmān* appointing him as the *mo'allem* (teacher) in charge of the religious affairs of the Persian Nezārī community. On his return journey, Fedā'ī passed through Ḥejāz and made the pilgrimage to Mecca, whence his popular designation of Ḥājī Āḳūnd. In 1324/1906, Fedā'ī, leading a group of prominent Nezārīs from Dezbād, paid his last visit to the Nezārī imam in



Bombay, where he also testified in court on behalf of Āqā Khan III in the course of the hearings of the famous Ḥāĵī Bibī Case, concerning the case of claims filed by Ḥāĵī Bibī, a cousin of Āqā Khan, against the latter's estate and income (Āqā Khan, pp. 79-80).

During the turbulent years of the Constitutional Revolution in Persia, Fedā'ī, who had hitherto been campaigning successfully throughout the Nezārī community of Khorasan for strengthening the religious identity of the Persian Nezārīs and the authority of Āqā Khan III, fell victim to the intrigues of some dissident Isma'īlis, who, under the leadership of Morād Mīrzā, were challenging the Āqā Khan's authority, and to the persecutions of some local Twelver 'olamā'. Until then, the Persian Nezārīs had observed their religious rituals mainly in the manner of the Twelver Shi'ites. Āqā Khan III eventually succeeded in preventing persecution of his Khorasani followers through the intervention of the British consul at Mašhad (Daftary, 1990, pp. 534-38).

Fedā'ī composed several doctrinal works, including the *Eršād al-sālekīn*, the *Kašf al-ḥaqā'eq*, the *Ketāb-e dāneš-e ahl-e bīneš*, and the *Ḥadīqat al-ma'ānī*, a treatise on *feqh*. Copies of these unpublished works, not listed in Fedā'ī's sections in the Isma'īli bibliographies of Wladimir Ivanow (pp. 153-54) and Ismail K. Poonawala (pp. 284-85), were shown to the present writer in Dezbād and Mašhad in 1985 by Fedā'ī's sole surviving grandson, Šadr-al-Dīn b. Mollā Šams-al-Dīn Mīršāhī. Fedā'ī also composed, probably at the suggestion of Āqā Khan III, a history of Isma'īlism entitled *Hedāyat al-mo'menīn al-ṭālebīn*, the first work of its kind by a modern Nezārī author. It is, however, permeated with all types of errors and extends from the origins of Isma'īlism to the Āqā Khans and the modern times; its copies are preserved by the Nezārīs of Badaḵšān in Afghanistan and Tajikestan (Berthels and Baqoev, p. 102). The sections on the Āqā Khans, comprising the most interesting parts of this work, were evidently added around 1328/1910 by a certain Mūsā Khan b. Moḥammad Ƙorāsānī, who died in Poona in 1937 (see Daftary, 1984). Mūsā Khan and his father had been in the service of the Āqā Khans in Bombay. Fedā'ī's *dīvān* of poetry, collected by his descendants and still unpublished, contains about 12,000 verses. His poetry, mainly in the form of *matnawīs*, *qašīdas*, or *ġazals* are not generally of high quality. They deal primarily with religious and didactic themes or are eulogies of the Nezārī imams. Fedā'ī died in Dezbād and was buried there next to Ƙākī Ƙorāsānī; the site was modestly repaired in 1966.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Details on Fedā'ī's life and works are contained in Şadr-al-Dīn Mīršāhī's unpublished biography of Fedā'ī and also in the introduction to one of Mīršāhī's collections of Fedā'ī's works (MSS Mīršāhī Collection, Mašhad).

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