



ĠĀLEB DADA, MOĤAMMAD AS'AD

ĠĀLEB DADA, MOĤAMMAD AS'AD (Mehmed Esad Galib Dede) also known as Shaikh Ġāleb (Şeyh Galib), poet in Turkish and Persian (b. Istanbul, 1171/1757; d. Galata, 26 Rajab 1213/3 January 1799). His father, Moştafā Raşid Efendi, was a poet, scholar, and member of the Mawlawī order with Malāmatī tendencies. Very little is known about Ġāleb's childhood and education. He began his study of Persian early, reading *Toḥfa-ye Şāhedī*, the versified Persian-Turkish dictionary of Ebrāhīm Şāhedī (d. 957/1550), with his father and later benefitting from the instructions of other scholars of Persian, especially poets associated with the Mawlawī order. His skill in Persian verse bears witness to the diversity of his teachers, among whom Solaymān Naş'at/Neş'et (d. 1740) may in particular be mentioned. Among the Turkish poets with whose work he was especially acquainted were Moḥammad Fożūlī (d. 963/1556; q.v.), Moḥammad Kayālī (d. 964/1556), 'Omar Efendi Nafī (d. 1044/1634), Yūsof Nabī (d. 1124/1712), and Nadīm Aḥmad (d. 1143/1730), but he was mostly influenced by the poetry of Ḥāfez and Sawkat-e Bokārī (d. 1111/1699), a poet of the so-called Indian style.

At the suggestion of Naş'at, Ġāleb used the pen name of As'ad in his early poems, but he soon abandoned it for Ġāleb because a large number of other poets were using As'ad as a pen name. He compiled his first *dīvān* in 1195/1680 at the age of twenty-four.



Ġāleb first entered government service but soon abandoned it to commit himself totally to the life of a mystic, joining the Mawlawī order, in whose milieu he had grown up. He went to the center of the order in Konya, prepared to enter the retreat of a thousand and one days that was customary among the Mawlawīs, but, longing for home, he was instructed by the head of the order to return to Istanbul and join the Mawlawī convent there. Ġāleb completed his long retreat at the Mawlawī convent (Mawlawī-kāna) in Galata, where he attained the rank of *kalīfa* and later, in 1205/1791, was appointed the shaikh of the convent. Ġāleb's poetry had already attracted the favor of Sultan Salīm (Selim) III, who himself wrote poetry and had also deep interest in the works of Rūmī and the Mawlawī order's tradition of music and poetry. Thus Ġāleb's appointment as the head of the convent caused the sultan to undertake the restoration of Mawlawī convents in his empire. In addition, he paid three hundred ducats for the preparation of a gilded copy of Ġāleb's *Dīvān*, which he then presented to the poet. Ġāleb died on 26 Rajab 1213/3 January 1799 and was buried in the garden of the Mawlawī convent in Galata.

Works. The *Dīvān*, published in lithograph edition (Būlāq, 1252/1836), contains a number of *ġazals* and *taẓmīns* in Persian, including two poems in imitation of Ḥāfeẓ, two in imitation of Kalīm Hamadānī, one in imitation of Sā'eb Tabrīzī, and four in imitation of Šawkat Boḳārī, whom Ġāleb particularly admired. The copy commissioned by Salīm III is kept in the library of Istanbul University (Turk. MS 5531). A transliterated edition of the *Dīvān* is published by Naci Okçu (Ankara, 1993).

Ḥosn o 'Ešq is an allegorical work partly influenced by the Persian work of the same title by Foẓūlī (q.v.), which had in turn been inspired by the *Ḥosn o Del* of the Persian poet Fattāḥī Nišāpūrī (q.v.). Although somewhat indebted to its predecessors, *Ḥosn o 'Ešq* demonstrated in full measure Ġāleb's brilliance as a poet. It also exhibits all the characteristics of the Indian style, Ġāleb's mastery of which led to his being called "the Šawkat of Rūm" (see Faṭīn, p. 310). Editions: as a supplement to the *Dīvān*, Būlāq, 1252/1836; ed. T. Olgun, Istanbul, 1939; ed. A. Golpınarlı, Istanbul, 1968. Prose renditions of the work have been made by Vasfī Maher Kocatürk, Huseyin Ayan, and Orhan Okay.

Šarḥ-e jazīra-ye Maṭnawī is a Persian commentary on an anthology of 366 lines of Rūmī's *Maṭnawī* compiled by Yūsof Sīnačāk (d. 953/1546).

Al-Šoḥbat al-Šafīyya is Ġāleb's commentary on Aḥmad Dede's *al-Resālat al-bahīya fī ṭarīqat al-Mawlawīya*, an Arabic work on the history and rites of the



Mawlawī order.

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