



ĠĪĀṬ-AL-DĪN ŠĪRĀZĪ

ĠĪĀṬ-AL-DĪN ŠĪRĀZĪ, master architect in Khorasan during the reign of the Timurid Šāhroḡ (807-50 /1405-47). Next to nothing is known about him. His name appears together with that of the renowned architect of Šāhroḡ, Qewām-al-Dīn b. Zayn-al-Dīn Šīrāzī (d. 842/1438), in the inscription of the west *ayvān* of the *Ḳargerd madrasa*, which was built for the Timurid vizier Pīr Aḡmad Ḳvāfi. According to this inscription, dated 846/1422-23, Qewām-al-Dīn died before the building was completed, which was then finished by Ġīāṭ-al-Dīn. A second foundation inscription on the entrance *ayvān* gives the date 848/1444, which means that Ġīāṭ-al-Dīn completed the work some six years later. It is not known whether he worked with Qewām-al-Dīn from the beginning or took over some time after the master had died. The building bears all of the hallmarks of Qewām-al-Dīn's work (based on surviving monuments): symmetry in plan and elevation, innovative vaulting, and tile work (Gowhar-šād mosque in Mašhad, 819-21/1416-18; the complex of Gowhar-šād in Herat, 820-41/1417-38; possibly the shrine of Ḳvāja 'Abd-Allāh Anšārī at Gāzorgāh, 829-32/1425-29). It is therefore impossible to determine Ġīāṭ-al-Dīn's personal contribution to the *madrasa* at *Ḳargerd*. Some scholars (e.g., O'Kane) suggest that he also built the mosque at Tāybād at the grave of Shaikh Zayn-al-Dīn, dated to 848/1444-45, and sponsored by the same patron. However, this shrine may well have been the work of another architect associated with Shiraz, who built the mosque and *madrasa* of Amīr Fīrūzšāh at Torbat-e Jām (844-46/1440-43). His use of arch-net vaulting is paralleled at Tāybād.



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