



## ĠOBĀRI, 'ABD-AL-RAĤMĀN

**ĠOBĀRI, 'ABD-AL-RAĤMĀN** b. 'Abd-Allāh, Ottoman poet, calligrapher, and Sufi who wrote in both Turkish and Persian (d. 974/1566). According to Ġobāri himself (*Ka'ba-nāma*, MS Manisa, fol. 10), he was born in Akşehir (Āq-šahr). He came to Istanbul, most probably after completing his primary education, where he studied with the celebrated scholars of the time and received calligraphy lessons from Shaikh Ḥamd-Allāhzāda Moştafā Dada (Mostaqimzāda, p. 246). He excelled in the *ġobār* style of calligraphy (q.v.), hence his pen name Ġobāri. After serving for a while as director of a *madrassa*, he became a secretary in the army and accompanied Solaymān the Magnificent (Kanunî Sultan Süleyman) during his campaigns in Mesopotamia (Tahir, III, p. 112). Upon returning to Istanbul, he wanted to become a Sufi and consequently gave up his official posts, became a disciple of Shaikh 'Abd-al-Laṭif Efendi, and joined the Naqšbandi order ('Āšeḡ Ćelebi, fol. 285a). He later became shaikh of the Sultan 'Abd-Allāh *zāwia* (hospice) in Akşehir. In 944/1537, he made the pilgrimage to Mecca and resided there for some time, occasionally serving as a *ḥajj* official (*şorra amini*, custodian of the government's gifts to the holy places). Around 946/1539, Ġobāri moved to Kütahya (Kutāhia) and entered the service of the local Ottoman administration under Prince Bāyazid. After Bāyazid revolted against Sultan Solaymān, was defeated by his brother Prince Salim, and took refuge in Persia, Ġobāri was briefly imprisoned but was released after the intercession of his friends. Sultan Solaymān then sent him back to Mecca to act as custodian of the covering for the Ka'ba (*maḥmel amini*). Ġobāri remained there until his death.



Works. Ġobāri's experiences in the Hejāz provided the basis for several works, including the Turkish *Kaba-nāma* (MSS Üsküdar, Hacı Selim Aĝa Kütüphanesi, Kemankeş Emîr Hoca 223; Manisa, İl Halk Kütüphanesi, Çaçnigîr 4952), an account of Ottoman pious foundations in Mecca presented to Sultan Solaymān in 963/1556. Ġobāri's best known work in Persian is the *Šāh-nāma* or *Solaymān-nāma*, (MS Manisa, İl Halk Kütüphanesi, Murādiye 11346), an encomium of Sultan Solaymān which drew freely on the poetry of Ferdowsi (q.v.). He also authored a mystical *maṭnawī*, the *Šabestān-e kayāl* (MSS Istanbul, Süleymaniye Kütüphanesi, Hacı Mahmud Efendi 3830; Manisa, İl Halk Kütüphanesi, Murādiye 2715; see also Sobḥāni, pp. 109-10), written in imitation of a namesake Persian poem by Fattāhi Nišāburi (q.v.).

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