



GOLĀKANI, MOĤAMMAD ŠARIF

GOLĀKANI, MOĤAMMAD ŠARIF (1770s-1827), poet and satirist from Kokand (Kōqand), bilingual in Persian and Chaghatay (see [CHAGHATAY LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE](#)).

Little is known about the life of GolĀkani. His given name was MoĤammad-Šarif, but he is better known simply as GolĀkani, one of his pen-names (*taġalloš*). He wrote under the pen-name of Jor'at as well. He was born in Kokand (see [KOKAND KHANATE](#)) into a family of farmers; his father reportedly came from the village of Bulqās in the region of Qarātegin (present-day Rašt valley in central Tajikistan; Abdullaev, p. 267; Muqimov, p. 207). At some point in life, GolĀkani joined the Kokand literary milieu at the court of MoĤammad 'Omar Khan (r. 1810-22) and his wife [Nādera](#) (1792-1842); they were themselves poets and actively promoted the social and cultural life of the khanate (Qayumov, p. 63).

GolĀkani was a lyric poet as well as an author of satirical prose. His surviving literary output includes a *qašida* in Persian, twelve *ġazals* (among which seven are in Persian and five in Chaghatay; Muqimov, p. 209), and the satirical prose-work *Žarb al-matal* ("parable" or "proverb"), composed in Chaghatay.

His bilingual poetry is mainly to be found within the *Majmu'a-ye šā'erān* (see



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below) compiled at the Kokand court in 1236/1821 by the poet ‘Abd-al-Karim Fażli Namangāni. GolĶani and the other poets involved in this collection do not imitate the verses of the classics, but those of ‘Omar Khan, who designated himself as both the poetic and political authority of the Kokand Khanate (see Erkinov, pp. 294-305).

Żarb al-mařal criticizes the prevailing social and political order by the means of satire, and notably by depicting the faults of human nature. The main characters of the work are animals, basically birds, which typify the individuals of the society of the author’s lifetime.

Soviet scholarship usually portrayed GolĶani as a major “progressive” poet of the 19th century by favoring and publishing his satirical prose-work rather than his “conservative” bilingual poetry, which represents anyway a good laboratory for the study of late Persian-Chaghatay bilingualism in Transoxiana.

Works:

Żarb al-mařal survives in three manuscripts: MS copied in 1299/1882 and MS with no date (both not yet identified in a library fund, only briefly mentioned by Muřimov, p. 209); MS of 80 folios, 50 of which contain the *Żarb al-mařal* and the other 30 contain *řazals* by various Central Asian poets of the 19th century (Andijān State Library, Uzbekistan). Editions include (lithographed) *Żarb al-mařal*, Kazan, 1890; Tashkent 1904, 1907, 1909, 1914; *Zarbulmasal va řazallar*, ed. Ķ. Ękubov, Tashkent, 1960; *Zarbulmasal*, Tashkent, 1974, 2000; Russian tr. as *Izbrannye proizvedeniya*, ed. Kh. Yakubov, Tashkent, 1951.

Poems are found in ‘Abd al-Karim Fażli Namangāni, *Majmu’a-ye řā’erān*, copied through the 19th century, MSS 232, 358, 1153, 1242, 2329, 2371, 7510, 9914 (Tashkent, Biruni Institute of Oriental Studies, Uzbek Academy of Sciences); MSS 1465, 1530 (Dushanbe, Institute of Oriental Studies, Tajik Academy of Sciences).

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