



ḤĀFEZ-E 'AJAM

ḤĀFEZ-e 'AJAM, ḤĀFEZ-AL-DIN MOḤAMMAD b. Aḥmad b. 'Ādel Çelebi, scholar of religion and author (d. 957/1550). He was born at an unknown date at Barda'a in the Caucasus to a father whose name is varyingly given as Aḥmad and 'Ādel. After completing the major part of his education in his hometown, he came to Tabriz for further studies with a certain Mazid. He left Tabriz, however, for Istanbul after the Safavid Shah Esmā'il I's conquest of the city, and there he entered the services of Mo'ayyadzāda 'Abd-al-Raḥmān Efendi, who was impressed by the breadth of his knowledge. The Ottoman ruler Sultan Bāyazid II appointed him to teach first at a *madrassa* in Ankara and then at one in Merzifon. Benefiting from a recommendation by Mo'ayyadzāda, he was then appointed in turn to the 'Ali Pasha *madrassa* in Istanbul, a series of *madrassas* in Iznik, and finally to the Şaḥn *madrassa*, where he remained until his death in 957/1550.

Ḥāfez-e 'Ajam was a prolific author, renowned for his ability to write with speed and in an attractive style. He also composed poetry, including *qaşidas* in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish, none of which have, however, survived. He wrote a number of glosses on well-known works, including *Hāşia 'alā şarḥ al-mawāqef* on Şarif Jorjāni's commentary on the *Ketāb al-mawāqef fi 'elm al-kalām* of Qāzi 'Azod-al-Din Iji (ms. Hacı Selimaga, Üsküdar, 607). Noteworthy among the rest of his works are *Resāla fi taşwir al-hayulā*; *Ma'ārek al-katā'eb fi mabāheṭ min al-'olum wa'l-kotob* (ms. Süleymaniye, Laleli 2513); *Madinat al-'elm*; *Manāqeb 'Ali b. Abi Ṭāleb*; *Moḥākamat al-tajrid*; *Fehrest al-'olum*; *Erjā' al-'elm elā noqaṭa wāḥeda*; *Hāşia 'alā şarḥ Meftāḥ al-'olum*; *Sab'a-ye sayyāra*; and



Naftat al-maṣdur (see Akün, for further details)

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