



ḤAYĀTI, ABDŪLHAY

ḤAYĀTI, ABDŪLHAY (‘Abd-al-Ḥayy), 9th/15th century poet who wrote a series of Turkish poems modeled on Neẓāmi’s *Ḳamsa*. Nothing is known about his life other than that he lived during the reigns of Sultan Moḥammad II and Bāyazid II (855/1451-918/1512). It is only in his *Eskandar-nāma* that his name is given as ‘Abd-al-Ḥayy, but in view of the semantic correspondence between it and his penname “Ḥayāti” it seems likely that this was his actual name. While still young, he joined the entourage of Maḥmud Pāšā (d. 878/1474), vizier to Sultan Moḥammad, who employed him to compose satirical verses directed against his enemies. His talent for satire apparently brought about Ḥayāti’s own death, for, deprived of the protection of his patron Maḥmud Pāšā after his execution in 878/1474, Ḥayāti was himself executed for the barbs he had directed against the historian Tursun Bey.

The first part of Ḥayāti’s *Ḳamsa*, following the example of Neẓāmi, is entitled *Maḳzan al-asrār*; the second, corresponding to Neẓāmi’s *Haft peykar*, bears the title *Bahrām-nāma*; and the third and fourth are *Eskandar-nāma* and *Ḳosrow o Širin*, again in conformity with the model of Neẓāmi. However, Ḥayāti’s *Ḳamsa* lacks a fifth component, either because he was unable to complete the work or because no fifth part has survived. A manuscript containing all four surviving parts is held in Agâh Sırrı Levend’s personal library, and there is a copy of the *Bahrām-nāma* in the library of Istanbul University (Türkçe Yazmaları, 7575).



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sehi, *Tezkire*, ed. M. Şükri, Istanbul, 1329/1911, pp. 69-70.

Agâh Sırrı Levend, "Hayatî'nin *İskendernâme*si," *Türk Dili* 1, 1951, pp. 195-201.

Türk dili ve edebiyatı ansiklopedisi, Istanbul, 1981, IV, p. 175.