



## JĀMI RUMI

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**JĀMI RUMI** (or Jāmi Meşri), **AḤMAD**, Ottoman official, poet, and translator (fl. 10th/16th century). Next to nothing is known about him beyond his career as a ranking official of the Ottoman state, even the dates and places of his birth and death are not recorded. He was a professional soldier in the service of the royal court. In the reign of Sultan Süleymān (Solaymān) the Magnificent (r. 1520-66), he worked as a treasurer (*kazīna-ye āmera kātebi*) in Egypt, where he lost four sons during a plague epidemic. He was sent to Mecca in order to renovate the Ka'ba, where he stayed for three years (ca. 1551-55). Upon returning to Istanbul he was promoted and once again sent to Egypt. During this time he translated Wā'eẓ Kāšefi's *Rawżat al-šohadā'* from Persian into Ottoman Turkish under the title of *Sa'ādat-nāma* for Süleymān the Magnificent. He became famous for this translation and became governor of a *sanjaq* (provincial district) in Egypt, the position in which he also served under Sultan Murād III (r. 1574-94).

His poetical works were apparently never collected in a *divān*, but some of his poems can be found in *taḍkeras* and anthologies. In *Sa'ādat-nāma* he used simple language but adorned it with poems of Turkish and Persian poets. There are many manuscripts of *Sa'ādat-nāma*; the oldest known manuscript dates from 986/1578 and is kept at Topkapı Palace Library in Istanbul (Revan, no. 1092; see Uzun, p. 103).



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