



## K̲VĀJAZĀDA AS'AD EFENDI

**K̲VĀJAZĀDA AS'AD EFENDI, MOḤAMMAD (MEḤMED)** (b. Istanbul, 10 Moḥarram 978/14 June 1570, d. Istanbul 14 Ša'bān 1034/22 May 1625), Ottoman *šayḵ-al-Eslām*, poet, and translator of Sa'di's *Golestān*. He was the second son of K̲vāja Sa'd-al-Din Efendi Ešfahāni (d. 1008/1599), the famous Ottoman historian, statesman, and *šayḵ-al-Eslām*. After receiving the elementary education from his father, As'ad studied with the known scholars of his time and, due to the influence of his eminent father, advanced rapidly in the hierarchy of the religious establishment. He first became a teacher (*modarres*) in various religious schools, the most important of which was the religious school of Salim (Selim) I. In 1590 he was appointed as the chief judge of Edirne, and in Du'l-ḥejja 1004/August 1596, he became the *qāzi-'askar* (judge of the army, a judicial rank just below *šayḵ-al-Eslām*) of Anatolia. Shortly after he was appointed the judge of Istanbul, and then the *qāzi-'askar* of Rumeli. Upon the death of his brother, Moḥammad Efendi, he assumed the post of his brother as *šayḵ-al-Eslām*. He gave his daughter in marriage to Sultan Oṭmān II (1027-31/1618-22), but this did not help his relationship with Oṭmān, who had not forgiven him for supporting the accession of MoštaĀfā I after the death of Sultan Aḥmad I in 1617 and, moreover, for having refused to issue a *fatwā* condoning the execution of Oṭmān's brother, Moḥammad. When Oṭmān was murdered in 1622 during the Jenissary mutiny, As'ad did not attend his funeral, which was construed that he had resigned from the office of *šayḵ-al-Eslām*. He was re-appointed *šayḵ-al-eslām* in 1623, due to the influence of the grand vizier Kamānčakaš 'Ali Pasha, the position he held until his death in 1625.



As'ad is known mainly for his Turkish translation of Sa'di's *Golestān*, titled *Gole kandān*, which he made for Sultan Aḥmad I (Istanbul, n.d.). He left a Persian *divān* and is credited with another one in Turkish, which seems to have been lost. He also wrote an addendum to his father's Ottoman history, *Tāj al-tawāriḳ*

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(Tahsin Yazıcı)