



## ḲALIL, MOḤAMMAD EBRĀHIM

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**ḲALIL, MOḤAMMAD EBRĀHIM** (b. Kabul, 1896; d. Kabul, 1984), Afghan scribe, calligrapher, poet and historian. Son of Mirzā Fażl-Aḥmad, he traced his genealogy to Shaikh Aḥmad b. Abu'l-Ḥasan Jāmi (better known as Aḥmad Žandapil). Ḳalil studied privately with his parents and excelled in the art of calligraphy, especially the *nasta'liq* and *šekasta* styles (see [calligraphy](#)). In the meantime, he learned the fundamentals of accounting, finance, and bookkeeping. In 1918, during the reign of Amir Ḥabib-Allāh Khan (r. 1901-19), he joined the expanding state bureaucracy. When Shah Amān-Allāh (r. 1919-29) came to power, Ḳalil was hired, probably because of his outstanding talent in Persian calligraphy, as a secretary (*monši*) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He later served, on a short-term basis, as secretary in the Afghan embassies in Delhi, London, and Paris. During Shah Amān-Allāh's much publicized and lengthy trip to Europe and the Middle East (lasting from December 1927 to July 1928), Ḳalil served as personal secretary to Queen Ḥomayrā and private tutor to Crown Prince Raḥmat-Allāh (Rasuli, pp. 370-71).

During the reign of Moḥammad Nāder Shah (r. 1929-33), Ḳalil was sent to Herat (q.v.) as director of finance. With the establishment of the National Bank (*Bānk-e Melli*) in 1934, Ḳalil was appointed as a director of the bank. Soon after taking up the post at the National Bank, Ḳalil, along with a number of leading intellectuals and literati of the time, was incarcerated, without charge, by the prime minister, Moḥammad Hāšem Khan. He spent nearly ten years in prison in Kabul. Upon his release in 1943 he was selected as a member of the



Historical Society of Afghanistan (see *anjoman-e tāriḳ-e afgānestān*). In 1950, Ḳalil was appointed as the editor-in-chief of the journal *Āriānā*, the official publication of the Historical Society. He retired from public office in 1960 and devoted himself to Persian poetry, historical studies, and calligraphy (Ḳasta, pp. 329-30).

Ḳalil is the author of several books and book-length monographs. His writings include *Rāhnemā-ye ḳaṭṭ* (Kabul, 1958); *Esteḳrāj-e tāriḳ dar naẓm* (Kabul, 1958); *Mazārāt-e Kābol* (Kabul, 1960); *Ḥālāt-e Solṭān Ebrāhim Adham* (Kabul, 1961); *Šarḥ-e ḥāl va āṭār-e Amir Ḳosrow Dehlavi* (Kabul, 1961); and *Kolliyāt-e Moḥammad Ebrāhim Ḳalil* (Kabul, 1968), which consists of some 16,000 couplets in various conventional poetic genres, exploring different themes and topics.

*Bibliography:*

Moḥammad Ḥanif Balki, “Ḳalil,” in *Par-e tāvūs*, Kabul, 1985, pp. 314-15.

Aḳtar Rasuli, “Ḳalil,” in *Dāneš-nāma-ye adab-e Fārsi III*, Tehran, 1999, pp. 370-71.

Ḳāl Moḥammad Ḳasta, “Ḳalil,” in *Mo’āšerin-e soḳanvar*, Kabul, 1960, pp. 329-30.