



KĀMI AḤMED ÇELEBİ

KĀMI AḤMED ÇELEBİ (Kāmi Aḥmad Çelebi; b. Edirne; d. Istanbul, 1579), Ottoman scholar, judge, writer, and translator. He was born in Edirne (his birth date is unknown) and known as Mesnevi-hānzāde (Maṭnawī-kvānzāda). He inherited the title of shaikh of the Mevlevi-hāne (*Mawlawi-k^vāna*) of Muradiye in Edirne from his father, but later gave up this position in order to work as a scholar. He taught as a professor (*modarres*) at the *madrāsas* of Meḥmud (Maḥmud) Pasha, Mustafa (Moṣṭafā) Pasha, Yıldırım Han (Yelderem Khan), Eyüb (Ayub), Sahn-ı Semān (Şaḥn-e Ṭamān), and Süleymaniye (Solaymāniya) in Istanbul. He met Sultan Selim II (1566-74) and worked as a judge (*qāḏi*) in Edirne and Cyprus, before returning to Istanbul, where he died in 1579. His grave is on the outskirts of Edirnekapı, near the Dergāh of Emir Buhāri (Amir Boḡāri) in Istanbul.

Kāmi Ahmed Çelebi is also mentioned as a poet in various sources. He was, however, unable to complete his major works, the *Tāriḳ-e āl-e Oṭmān* and *Manāqeb-e 'olamā*. He had also begun a translation of *Kimiā-ye sa'ādat* by [Abu-Ḥāmed Ġazālī](#) (d. 1111) for Sultan Selim II, but he did not complete it. Some sources say that he completed the translation from Persian to Ottoman Turkish of the *Kalila o Demna* (q.v.) under the title of *Homāyun-nāma*, which had been begun by 'Alā'-al-Din 'Alī Çelebi (d. 1543). These translations prove that he was well-versed in the Persian language. His art of poetry has been praised in various sources.



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