



# KAŠF AL-LOĠĀT WA'L-EŞTELĀĤĀT

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**KAŠF AL-LOĠĀT WA'L-EŞTELĀĤĀT** (Revealing [of the meaning] of words and terminology), title of a Persian dictionary compiled in India by 'Abd-al-Raḥim b. Aḥmad Suri, born in the province of Bihar, India, in the first half of the 16th century. *Kašf al-loġāt* was compiled before 1017/1608 (most probably around the middle of the 16th century), since it is mentioned among the sources of the *Farhang-e jahāngiri*, which was completed in that year. The dictionary contains more than 21,000 entries. Most of the entries are of religious and philosophical nature, with an emphasis on Sufi terminology, although there are also words from the general Persian vocabulary, including colloquial and dialectical forms. Professional terminology and vocabulary are also well represented. 'Abd al-Raḥim indicates in his introduction that he compiled the dictionary for his son, Šehāb, who was reading the *divān* of the Sufi poet Qāsem-e Anwār (d. 1431) with him; and the Arabic words, particularly symbolic Sufi terms, encountered there could not be found in the dictionaries available to them (Dabirsiāqi, 1989, pp. 111-12).

*Kašf al-lōġāt* is divided into twenty-eight chapters (*bāb*) in the order of the initial letters, and each chapter is subdivided into sections (*faşl*), where words with the same final letter are listed. There are a few illustrations of word usage, drawn mostly from the *Šāh-nāma* and the poetry of Neẓāmi Ganjavi, Kāqāni Šarvāni, Ḥāfeẓ, and others. Special attention is given to the definition of Arabic words and expressions, while Persian entries are marked with the



letter “f” for *fārsi*. Among the main sources of *Kašf al-loġāt* are the Persian dictionaries *Farhang-e ebrāhimi* (i.e., *Šaraf-nāma-ye Monyari*) of Ebrāhim Qewām Fāruqi (comp. 1473), *Mo’ayyed al-fozalā’* of Moḥammad Lād (comp. 1519), *Dastūr al-afāzel* of Rafi’ Dehlavi (comp. 1342-43), *Farhang-e Amir Šehāb-al-Din Kermāni*, and the Arabic dictionaries *Kanz al-loġāt* of Moḥammad b. Ma’ruf (comp. ca. 1465), *al-Šorāḥ men al-Šaḥāh* of Jamāl-al-Din Moḥammad Qarši (comp. 1282), the “two *Tājs*” (*Tājayn*, apparently meaning the *Tāj al-mašāder* of Abu Ja’far Bayhaqi [d. 1150], and dictionary *Tāj al-loġa wa šeḥāḥ al-‘arabiya* compiled by the 10th-century lexicographer Abu Naṣr Jawhari).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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