



KAYFI SABZAVĀRI

KAYFI SABZAVĀRI, Mir Moḥammad (fl. 17th cent.), Persian poet, also known as Kayfi Sistāni and Kayfi Now-Mosalmān. He was born and raised in a Jewish family in Sabzavār and converted to Islam in his youth during a trip to Sistān. Kayfi was a wandering dervish for twenty years and traveled in India during this time. The biographical details about him are chiefly recorded by two of his contemporaries, namely, Taqī Awḥadi (V, pp. 3232-33; Golčīn Maʿāni, II, p. 1189), and Mollā ʿAbd-al-Nabi Faḳr-al-Zamāni (pp. 876-77). Both authors had a high opinion of Kayfi's poetry. Taqī Awḥadi writes that Kayfi was in Bengal for a period, and he saw him in Agra and Ajmer in 1615-16. He adds that Kayfi was in the service of the Mughal prince Ḳorram (later the emperor Shah Jahān), son of the emperor [Jahāngir](#). Faḳr-al-Zamāni records that in 1025/1616, when he met Kayfi in Lahore, the poet had not yet compiled his poems in a *divān*. He also notes that he was still in Mughal service in 1619. Kayfi wrote a poem, titled *Āgāh-nāma*, in imitation of Mawlānā Jalāl-al-Din Rumi's *Maṭnawī-e maʿnawī*, two lines of which are quoted by Faḳr-al-Zamāni (p. 876). It seems that his *divān* has never been compiled; only a few lines from his lyrics (*ḡazal*) and quatrains (*robāʿī*) are found in biographical dictionaries.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Taqi Awḥadi, *Tadkerat al-ʿarafāt al-ʿāseqin*, ed. Moḥsen Nāji Naṣrābādi, 7 vols., Tehran, 2009.

Mollā ʿAbd-al-Nabi Faḵr-al-Zamāni Qazvini, *Tadkera-ye may-kāna*, ed. Aḥmad Golčīn Maʿāni, Tehran, 1961, pp. 876-77.

Aḥmad Golčīn Maʿāni, *Kārvān-e Hend*, 2 vols., Mashad, 1990, II, pp. 1189-90.

Nabi Hadi, *Dictionary of Indo-Persian Literature*, New Delhi, 1995, p. 290.

Mollā Vāleh Dāgestāni, *Riāz al-šoʿarāʾ*, ed. Moḥsen Nāji Naṣrābādi, 5 vols., Tehran, 2005, IV, p. 1928.