



MADĀR AL-AFĀŽEL

MADĀR AL-AFĀŽEL (The orbit of the learned), a dictionary of the Persian language compiled in 1001/1593 by the poet and historian Allāh-dād Fayzī b. Asad al-'Olamā' Ali-šir Serhendi, who lived in India during the reign of the [Mughal Emperor Akbar](#) (r. 1556-1606) and wrote a brief history of his reign, called *Akbar-nāma* or *Tāriḡ-e Akbar*.

Madār al-afāžel is a detailed dictionary of 12,000 words, mostly of the kind commonly encountered in poetry and in historical works. The focus of the work is on explaining Arabic and Turkic loan words in Persian, with the primary emphasis on those of Arabic origin. The dictionary is comprised of an introduction, twenty-eight chapters (*bāb*), and an appendix on grammar. The entries are arranged into chapters according to their first letter, and each chapter is subdivided into sections (*faṣl*), in which words with the same final letter are listed. Within the sections, words are grouped in the order of Arabic, Persian, and finally Turkish. The language of origin for each word is indicated respectively by “a” (*arabi*), “f” (*fārsi*), and “t” (*torki*).

The entries are illustrated with examples taken from the works of famous Persian poets like Ferdowsi, 'Onṣori, Šahid Balḡi, Kesā'i Marvazi, Kāqāni Šarvāni, Rudaki, Sa'di, Nežāmi Ganjavi, and Ḥāfez. There are also examples from the author's own poetry.

Among the sources of *Madār al-afāžel* are the Persian dictionaries *Farhang-e zafānguyā wa jahānpuyā* of Badr-al-Din Ebrāhim (comp. 1434), *Adāt al-fozalā* of Badr-al-Din Moḥammad Dehlavi (comp. 1419), *Farhang-e ebrāhimi* (i.e.,



Šaraf-nāma-ye Monyari) of Ebrāhim Qewām Fāruqi (comp. 1473), *Toḥfat al-sa'āda eskandari* of Maḥmud b. Shaikh ZĪā'-al-Din (comp. 1510), *Mo'ayyed al-fozalā* of Moḥammad Lād (comp. 1519), and the Arabic dictionaries *al-Šorāḥ men al-Šaḥāh* of Jamāl-al-Din Moḥammad Qarši (comp. 1282), *Mohaḍḍeb al-asmā'* of Qāzi Maḥmud b. 'Omar Zanjī (13th cent.), *Nešāb al-šebyān* of Abu Naṣr Farāhi (1221), and the “two *Tājs*” (*Tājayn*, apparently meaning the *Tāj al-mašāder* of Abu Ja'far Bayhaqi [d. 1150], and dictionary *Tāj al-loḡa wa šeḥāḥ al-'arabiya* compiled by the 10th-century lexicographer Abu Naṣr Jawhari).

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