



## ARZĀNI, MOḤAMMAD AKBAR

**ARZĀNI, MOḤAMMAD AKBAR** (d. 1134/1722), an Indian author of works on medicine. His main Persian works, which circulated also through several Urdu translations, gained considerable diffusion among later physicians. According to his own statement in the *Ṭebb-e akbari*, he had been a recluse in a convent (*zāwia*), later on he studied the religious doctrines and finally dedicated himself to the study of medicine. He probably took part in the Mughal military campaign in the Deccan under Awrangzēb.

Arzāni's early main works are two Persian commentaries of Arabic books. One is the *Ṭebb-e akbari* (1112/1700-01), a Persian amplified adaptation of Nafis b. 'Eważ Kermani's commentary on Najib-al-Din Samarqandi's (d. 619/1222) *Ketāb al-asbāb wa'l-'alāmāt*; it was later translated into Urdu and Sindhi. The other commentary is the *Mofarreḥ al-qolub*, which became the most diffused Indo-Persian commentary on Maḥmud b. Moḥammad Čaġmini's *Qānunča*. Later Arzāni composed the *Mizān al-ṭebb*, a Persian manual in three parts on pathology and treatment, on which Moḥammad Šarif b. Moḥammad Boḳāri Naqšbandi wrote a Persian commentary titled *'Omān al-ṭebb, šarḥ-e Mizān al-ṭebb*, 1259/1843); several Urdu translations have appeared since the 19th century. Arzāni wrote in Arabic the *Ḥodud al-amrāż*, a dictionary of medical terms on which Abu'l-Qāsem Mir Qodrat-Allāh Khan (d. 1254/1838) wrote a commentary in Persian.

Arzāni was initiated into the Qāderiya Sufi order, and he named his last main work, the *Qarābqdin-e qāderi* (1130/1718), a Persian pharmacopoeia of compound drugs, after the eponym founder of the order, 'Abd-al-Qāder Gilāni



(1166; see 'ABD-AL-QĀDER JILĀNI).

His first work had been a Persian treatise on the medicine of the prophet, *Talkiṣ-e ṭebb-e nabawi*, sometimes wrongly considered (Elgood, p. 63) as a translation of Soyūṭi's treatise, *Manhaj al-sawi*. His other works include *Mojarrabāt-e akbari*, a collection of tested treatments, *Ḳayr al-tajāreb*, a revised abridgment of *Ṭebb-e akbari*, *Ṭebb-e hendi*, a work on Indian prescriptions. The only non-medical work ascribed to Arzāni is a translation of a treatise on music by Tan Sen, a court musician at the court of the Mughal Akbar.

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