



ŠEHĀB-AL-DIN ŠĀH ḤOSAYNI

ŠEHĀB-AL-DIN ŠĀH ḤOSAYNI, a Nezāri Ismaʿili high dignitary (*pir*) and author (b. Iraq, or probably Maḥallāt, ca. 1268/1851; d. Poona, India, Šafar 1302/December 1884). Šehāb-al-Din Šāh, also known as Pir Ḳalil-Allāh, was the eldest son of Āqā ʿAlišāh, **Āqā Khan II** (1246-1302/1830-85), the forty-seventh imam of the Nezāri Ismaʿilis, and the elder half-brother of Solṭān Moḥammad Šāh, **Āqā Khan III** (1294-1376/1877-1957), who succeeded his father to the Nezāri Ismaʿili imamate in 1302/1885. Šehāb-al-Din Šāh was also a great-grandson of **Faṭḥ-ʿAli Shah Qajar** through his paternal grandmother Sarv-e Jahān Ḳānom (d. 1299/1882), who was one of Faṭḥ-ʿAli Shah’s daughters.

Šehāb-al-Din Šāh went with his parents from Maḥallāt to India in 1269/1853 and then spent the rest of his short life in Bombay and Poona, where the Nezāri imams were then based with extensive retinues of relatives and servants. Šehāb-al-Din Šāh died in Poona after a brief illness and was later buried in the family mausoleum in Najaf, next to his father.

Šehāb-al-Din Šāh was a learned member of the family of Āqā Khans. He was also regarded as one of the *pirs*, or high dignitaries, of the Nezāri Ismaʿilis, especially by the Nezāri Ḳojas of India (Fedāʿi Ḳorāsāni, pp. 178-79; Ivanow, 1922, p. 67; for Ismaʿili *kojas* and *pirs*, see Daftary, 2007, pp. 439-44, 474-81). He was expected to succeed to the *imamate*, but he predeceased his father by a few months. Šehāb-al-Din Šāh composed a few treatises in Persian on aspects of Ismaʿili doctrines, with special reference to their ethical and mystical teachings. These works, preserved in India and Central Asia (Bertels and Bakoev, pp. 51, 59-60), in fact, represent the earliest examples of a modern



literary revival in the life of the Nezāri Ismāʿīli community, initiated in India in the second half of the 13th/19th century and utilizing the Persian language.

Šehāb-al-Din Šāh's works, discovered in Bombay in the early 1930s by [Wladimir Ivanow](#), include his *Keṭābāt-e ʿāliā* and the unfinished *Resāla dar ḥaqīqat-e din*. The *Resāla* has been translated into English, Arabic, [Urdu](#), and [Gujarāti](#). The autograph copies of these works, in Šehāb-al-Din Šāh's handwriting, were preserved in Bombay in the library of Musā Khan Ḳorāsāni (d. 1937), a bibliophile in the service of Šehāb-al-Din Šāh.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andreĭ E. Bertel's and Mamadvafo Bokoev, *Alfavitnyĭ katalog rukopiseĭ obnaruzennykh v Gorno-Badachsanskoĭ avtonomnoĭ oblasti ekspeditsiei 1959-1963 gg./Alphabetic Catalogue of the Manuscripts Found by 1959–1963 Expedition in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region*, ed. B. G. Gafurov and A. M. Mirzoev, Moscow, 1967.

Farhad Daftary, “*Shihāb al-Dīn al-Ḥusaynī*,” in *EI*² IX, 1997, p. 435.

Idem, *Ismaili Literature: A of Sources and Studies*, London, 2004, pp. 152-53.

Idem, *The Ismāʿīlīs: Their History and Doctrines*, 2nd ed., Cambridge, 2007.

Moḥammad b. Zayn-al-ʿĀbedin Fedāʿi Ḳorāsāni, *Ketāb hedāyat al-moʿmenin al-ṭālebin*, ed. Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Semenov, Moscow, 1959.

Wladimir Ivanow, “Ismailitica,” in *Memoirs of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 8, 1922, pp. 1-76.

Idem, *Ismaili Literature: A Bibliographical Survey*, Tehran, 1963, pp. 149-50.

Idem, *Fifty Years in the East: The Memoirs of Wladimir Ivanow*, ed. Farhad Daftary, London, 2015, pp. 191, 197, 202, 209, 212.

Ismail K. Poonawala, *Biobibliography of Ismāʿīlī Literature*, Malibu, Calif., 1977, pp. 283-84.



Šehāb-al-Din Šāh Ḥosayni, *Keṭābāt-e ʿālia*, ed. H. Ojāqi, Bombay, 1963.

Idem, *Resāla dar ḥaqiqat-e din*, ed. and tr. Wladimir Ivanow, as *True Meaning of Religion*, Islamic Research Association [series] 3, Bombay, 1933; later reprints, new editions, and translations of this *Resāla* by W. Ivanow, were published in 1947, 1955, and 1956 in the Ismaili Society's series.