



ŠIRĀZI, NUR-AL-DIN MOḤAMMAD 'ABD-ALLĀH

ŠIRĀZI, Nur-al-Din Moḥammad 'Abd-Allāh, Indo-Muslim physician and one of the main Persian authors of works on medical subjects in India in the 17th century. He was born in India, a descendent, most likely the son of 'Ayn-al-Molk Širāzi (d. 1595), a leading physician at the court of Jalāl-al-Din Akbar. His mother was the sister of the two prominent court scholars, namely, the historian [Abu'l-Faḏl 'Allāmi](#) and the court poet [Abu'l-Fayḏ Fayḏi](#) (Ḥasani, V, p. 407). Nur-al-Din, too, received the title of 'Ayn al-Molk from Šāh Jahān (r. 1628-58), and later he held the post of *divān-e boyutāt* in Akbarābād under Awrangzēb (r. 1658-1707; Moḥammad-Kāẓem, p. 344). He also wrote on subjects other than medicine, including a treatise called *Marāteb al-wojud* on the mystical concept of “the unity of being” (*waḥdat al-wojud*) and collected the letters of Abu'l-Faḏl (*Roqa'āt-e Šayḵ Abu'l-Faḏl*) and Fayḏi (*Laṭifa-ye fayyāzi*). His *Ṭebb-e dārā-šokuhi* (com. 1646) seems to be the largest Persian medical work of encyclopaedic character composed in India, covering most medical topics as well as discussions of a few other non-medical scientific topics. Some manuscripts copies contain illustrations (cf. Speziale, pp. 925, 927).

The medical scene of Muslim India was characterized by the production of Persian works on Indian medicine, among which the *Ṭebb-e dārā-šokuhi* constitutes a main effort aiming to incorporate the Indian knowledge of medicine into a Persian medical encyclopaedia. The work was dedicated to prince [Dārā Šokoh](#) (d. 1659), who was known for his studies of the Indian



traditions, while Nur-al-Din’s uncle, Fayzi, was the Persian translator of Bhāskara’s *Lilāvātī*, a Sanskrit text on arithmetic. Nur-al-Din dedicated to the physician and Mughal noble Amān-Allāh Khan the *Qoṣṭās al-aṭebbā’* (comp. 1630-31), an extensive dictionary of Arabic and Persian medical terms. But the medical work of his that reached the wider diffusion among Indian physicians is the *Alfāz al-adwia* (1628-29), which was dedicated to Šāh Jahān. *Alfāz al-adwia* is a compact dictionary of 1,441 drugs, including those of India. It has been copied several times and at least seven editions were printed in India in the second half of 19th century. Francis Gladwin published in 1793 an English translation, including the edition of names of drugs, at the recommendation of the hospital board of Fort William. Širāzi’s other medical treatises are *Anis al-mo’ālejin*, a compendium on pathology and treatment, and *Sabab-e setta-ye rašidi* on hygiene.

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