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‘Abd al-Wājid: Badr al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Wājid [Wāḥid] ibn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ḥanafī

Hüseyin Topdemir

Born Mashhad, (Iran)

Died Kütahya, (Turkey), 1434

‘Abd al-Wājid was a *mudarris* (teacher) who wrote several works on astronomy that indicate that he was greatly influenced by the astronomical educational tradition of the Marāgha circle of scholars (including **Tūsī** and **Shīrāzī**). He traveled to Anatolia from his native region of Khurāsān in Iran, and became a student of Muḥammad ibn Ḥamza al-Fanārī (died: 1431) during the reign of Germiyānoğlu Süleymān Shāh (1368-1387). ‘Abd al-Wājid later settled in Kütahya and taught at the Wājidiyya Madrasa (known as the Demirkapi Madrasa during the Ottoman Period) until his death. The influence of the Marāgha circle had previously been felt in Anatolia because of Shīrāzī, who had also worked at various centers and schools there.

Local traditions indicate that the Wājidiyya Madrasa was a place where astronomical observation and instruction took place, often associated with ‘Abd al-Wājid in the 14th century. According to its foundation inscription, this *madrasa* was built in 1308 by Mubārīz al-Dīn ibn Sāwjī. ‘Abd al-Wājid must have been a very prominent professor at this *madrasa* in as much as it seems to have been renamed in his honor; clearly, he was not one of its founding professors. Because ‘Abd al-Wājid had astronomical interests and was the author of several books on astronomy, the local tradition connecting the school with astronomy gains some credibility. This probably consisted of astronomical instruction and some practical applications. It is unlikely, though, that there was a large-scale observatory, such as those at Marāgha and Samarqand, associated with the school.

Among ‘Abd al-Wājid’s works on astronomy, *Sharḥ al-Mulakhkhas fī al-hay’a* is a commentary on **Jaghminī**’s famous astronomical textbook; ‘Abd al-Wājid dedicated it to Sultan Murād II (1404-1451). *Sharḥ Sī faṣl* is a commentary on Tūsī’s Persian work on practical astronomy, which consists of 30 chapters. This text was translated into Turkish by Ahmed-i Dā’ī, but it cannot be precisely dated. *Ma’ālim al-awqāt wa-sharḥuhu* is a work about the astrolabe and its uses. It was written in verse and consisted of 552 couplets. It was dedicated to Muḥammad Shāh (died: 1406), the son of ‘Abd al-Wājid’s teacher al-Fanārī.

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