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## Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī: Kamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn ‘Uthmān ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Muṣṭafā al-Māridīnī al-Turkmānī al-Ḥanafī

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**Born Cairo, (Egypt), 1314**

**Died probably Gülistan (Guliston, Uzbekistan), after 1354**

Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī was one of several writers who wrote a commentary to **Jaghminī**'s *al-Mulakḥkhaṣ fī ‘ilm al-hay’a al-basīṭa*. Most of his other writings are in the fields of history and *fiqh* and *uṣūl* (Islamic law and jurisprudence). There is much confusion regarding his education, life, and date and place of death. However, we do know that Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī was born and spent some time in Cairo (where he undoubtedly benefited from the scientific environment), and that he also lived much of his life in Mardin (now in southeastern Turkey). He came from a family that was actively engaged in scientific work; most likely he was first educated by his father Aḥmad, known as Ibn al-Turkmānī, who was an astronomer who had written a commentary on **Kharaqī**'s astronomical treatise *al-Tabṣira fī ‘ilm al-hay’a*.

Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī's *Commentary* to the *Mulakḥkhaṣ* was written in September 1354 in Gülistan/Saray, the capital city of the Golden Horde State, and was offered to Jānī Beg Khan (reigned: 1349-1352); the work is a significant indication of how widespread and established the Islamic scientific heritage had come to be. The *Commentary* was used as a textbook for studying *‘ilm al-hay’a* (theoretical astronomy) throughout the Ottoman Empire and Persia for many years. At least ten copies of the work can be found today in Turkey's manuscript libraries (the oldest copy being Atıf Efendi Library MS 1707/2, 11b-223a). In addition, Fasīh al-Dīn Muḥammad al-Kūhistānī (died: 1530), who was a student of **‘Alī al-Qūshjī**, wrote a supercommentary on Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī's *Commentary*. This represents an important indication of the continuous tradition of studying *hay’a* within the Samarqand school of mathematicians and astronomers.

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