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## ‘Ubaydī: Jalāl al-Dīn Faḍl Allāh al-‘Ubaydī

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### Died 1350

There is little information about the identity and life of ‘Ubaydī. According to a recorded note in one of his works, he was the student of **Qutb al-Dīn al-Shirāzī** (Istanbul, Süleymaniye, Nuri Efendi MS 149/2, 16b-81b). Since copies of his astronomical works are extant in Turkish manuscript libraries, it is assumed that he was educated, and that he studied in Anatolia.

‘Ubaydī’s work represents a continuation of the tradition of studying mathematics and astronomy at the Marāgha School and Marāgha Observatory as well as ideas put forth by **Ibn al-Haytham**. He was particularly interested in *‘ilm al-hay’a* (theoretical astronomy) and wrote a commentary on **Mahmūd al-Jaghminī**’s *al-Mulakhkhaṣ fī ‘ilm al-hay’a al-basīta*. ‘Ubaydī informs us in the preface that he wrote the commentary in 3 days at the request of some professors and students. There are at least 20 extant copies of the commentary in Turkish manuscript libraries.

‘Ubaydī wrote another important astronomical work, in February 1328, entitled *Bayān al-Tadhkira wa-tibyān al-tabṣira*, which was a commentary on **Naṣir al-Dīn al-Tūsī**’s *al-Tadhkira fī ‘ilm al-hay’a*. “*Al-tabṣira*” in the title refers to **Muḥammad al-Kharaqī**’s *al-Tabṣira fī ‘ilm al-hay’a*. There are at least four extant copies of this work in Turkey.

One often finds copies of both works bound together; this was probably intentional since their contents complement one another. ‘Ubaydī’s two commentaries need to be examined more closely; only then will their place within the tradition of *‘ilm al-hay’a* be established. We do know, however, that ‘Ubaydī’s teaching of the subject in various schools certainly contributed toward making the tradition more widespread.

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