

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL
WORKS OF
SĀDIK ISFAHĀNI**

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The geographical works of Sádik Isfaháni by Sádik Isfaháni & William Ouseley

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SĀDIK ISFAHĀNI & WILLIAM OUSELEY

**THE GEOGRAPHICAL
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THE
GEOGRAPHICAL WORKS

OF

SÁDIK ISFAHÁNI.

TRANSLATED BY J. C.

FROM ORIGINAL PERSIAN MSS. IN THE COLLECTION OF

SIR WILLIAM OUSELEY, THE EDITOR.



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P R E F A C E.

IN the following pages two Persian works of considerable rarity are now, for the first time, clothed in a European dress, and offered to the Oriental Translation Committee, which has on all occasions evinced such zeal in promoting and diffusing the study of Eastern literature. For the use of these Tracts (illustrating Asiatic Geography) I am indebted to Sir William Ouseley, in whose valuable and extensive Collection of Manuscripts they are preserved. To him also I must acknowledge further obligations: together with the two Manuscripts, he communicated to me some passages of a translation which he had himself begun to make

from them several years ago, but which he discontinued on undertaking the publication of his "Travels in various Countries of the East." These passages I have gladly incorporated with my own part of the translation, availing myself, at the same time, of a few hints for short notes, which he obligingly added to his communication; and I shall here transcribe an extract from his answer to my Letter requesting some literary and biographical anecdotes of *Sádik Isfaháni*, and an account of the two works which, at Sir William's suggestion, I had undertaken to translate:—*

"Of the two Persian Manuscripts which I have much pleasure in consigning to you, each is a complete and distinct composition,

* See the "Catalogue of several hundred Manuscript Works in various Oriental Languages, collected by Sir William Ouseley, LL.D., &c." In this Catalogue (which was printed last year, 1831, and intended for private circulation,) the Geographical Tracts of *Sádik Isfaháni* are noticed (p. 11) under the titles of "Tabkik al Iráb," (two copies, No. 300, in quarto, and No. 301, in folio,) and "Takwím al Buldán," No. 333, a folio MS.

although, as both treat on the same subject, they are bound together in one volume. The first work, entitled ‘*Tahkík al Iráb,*’ (تحقیق الاعراب) gives, in alphabetical order, the names of countries, cities, rivers, and other objects geographically interesting, with short descriptions. The second MS. is entitled ‘*Takwím al Buldán,*’ (تقویم البلدان) and likewise exhibits, in alphabetical order, the names of various places, with descriptions, (shorter than those given in the former work,) also the degrees of longitude and latitude. From what points these are computed the author does not state; but it is evident that he follows those eastern geographers who, like *Nasír ad’dín Tísi*, *Hamdallah Kazvini*, and *Ulugh Beig*, calculate their longitude (از جزایر خالداات) ‘from the Fortunate Islands,’ and their latitude (از خط استوا) ‘from the Equinoctial Line.’

“Respecting *Sádik Isfaháni* (as our ingenious author is commonly styled) I have been able to obtain but little information. His principal work, the ‘*Subhh Sádik,*’ (صبح صادق a General History of Asia,) occupies

four large folio volumes: one of these, comprising the ancient part, is in my Collection. He composed also on different subjects, chiefly historical, many tracts, (some of which I possess,) constituting a Miscellany denominated 'Sháhíd Sádik' (شاهد صادق): to this belonged the two tracts now in your hands, and I believe that it did not contain any other work on the subject of geography.

"In one of his historical compositions he is entitled at full length *Mírzá Muhammed Sádik ben Mírzá Muhammed Sáleh Zobeiri Isfaháni, Azadáni*.* A note made above thirty years ago by an accomplished friend, who brought those historical manuscripts to Europe, states that *Sádik Isfaháni* had visited many parts of India, where he died about one hundred and fifty years before; †

میرزا محمد صادق بن میرزا محمد صالح زبیری اصفهانی *
 آزادانی We may reasonably suppose that *Muhammed Sáleh* derived the surname *Azadáni* from the village of *Azadán*, which *Sádik* describes as a place belonging to *Isfahán*. (See the "Tahkík al Iráb," p. 2.)

† I have lately found a date which proves that *Sádik Isfaháni* was employed on his great work, the "Subhh

and various passages scattered throughout his Geographical Tracts show that he was much better acquainted with that country than most Persian writers.

“ He has not quoted any authority for the geographical positions in his second work, the ‘*Takwīm al Buldān* ;’ but that he consulted the Tables composed by *Nasīr ad’dīn Tūsi*, *Abū l Fedā*, and *Ulugh Beig*, and the admirable *Nuzahat al Kulūb* of *Hamdallah Kazvīni*, we can scarcely doubt, although it will be found on examination that he differs from them in numerous instances respecting either the longitude of certain places or the latitude, or sometimes both. He has supplied a multiplicity of names omitted by them, and to many which they give he has added short descriptions : of his Tables also, the order, being alphabetical, seems to me a far more convenient mode of arrangement than that which was adopted by the older

Sādik” above mentioned, in the year 1045 of the Muhammedan era, or of Christ 1635. This date occurs in his account of Noah’s Deluge.