

## LATĀ'IF-I ĐURŪB

*BEGINNING.* شكر و سپاس و منت اول خدای بی عله

*AUTHOR.* Unknown; evidently some one in touch with the circles of palace eunuchs.

*TITLE. CONTENTS.* 'Pleasant sayings' (f. 2b). In the Preface written in Turkish the author mentions among his sources the sayings of 'Alī (v.s. 3), the Prophet's traditions, proverbs, &c. The sayings, some of which have been abridged by the author, are all in Arabic. They have been arranged in alphabetical order. The last letter (*yā*) is absent and f. 17a is unfinished, perhaps because the author intended to produce another copy incorporating the additions written in the margin.

*SIZE. FOLIOS.* 20.2 × 12.7 cm.; written surface 13.8 × 6.2 cm.; 15 lines; 17 folios.

*BINDING.* Brown leather, flapped; 3-centre ornament with gold ground. Inside, pink stamped paper.

*SCRIPT. PAPER.* Naskh within gold and red rules. Numerous additions in the margin. Thin, dark ivory-toned, polished paper.

*SCRIBE. DATE.* A.D. 18th century (?).

*PROVENANCE.* The collection is dedicated (f. 3a) to Ḥājji Bashīr whom the author calls 'chief of royal companions, guardian of the Sultān's harem, His Excellency the Aghā of the House of Happiness'. On f. 1 laudatory entries about the book by 'Muḥammad Pīrī-zāda, imām of the Sultān', and by 'Abdullāh b. Muḥammad, surnamed Yūsuf-efendi, eunuch (*khwāja*) of the family of Seferli (both in Arabic). This latter

certifies that the book merits presentation to the high personage who is the trusted person (*amīn*) of the House of Happiness, the 'protector' of Mekka and Medina, &c. with some allusion to the name of the above-mentioned Ḥājji Bashīr. A seal bearing the inscription: 'Ābida, daughter of Sayyid 'Abdullāh.

*MINIATURES. ILLUMINATION.* The text opens with a decorated headpiece (blank gold panel); chapters in gold; large gold rosettes after each sentence throughout the text.