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*An Analytical Survey of Persian Works
on Indian Learned Traditions*

OFFPRINT



PERSO-INDICA.

AN ANALYTICAL SURVEY OF PERSIAN WORKS ON INDIAN LEARNED TRADITIONS

is published on line at: www.perso-indica.net
ISSN: 2267-2753

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Mahābhārata (Zayn al-‘Ābidīn translation)

Zayn al-‘Ābidīn, the ruler of Kashmir (r. 1418-1419 and 1420-1470), allegedly sponsored a translation of the Sanskrit epic *Mahābhārata* into Persian. Pīr Ġulām Ḥasan Šāh Khūyihāmī mentions the translation in his *Tārīḥ-i Ḥasan*, a late-nineteenth-century work, and attributes it to Mullā Aḥmad (Shukla 1974, p. 188). Mullā Aḥmad also translated the *Rājatarāṅgiṇī*, a Sanskrit work of Kashmiri history, into Persian, and numerous other translations between the two languages are known to have been patronized by Zayn al-‘Ābidīn (Ernst 2003, p. 178). The Zayn al-‘Ābidīn translation of the *Mahābhārata* is not mentioned by Śrīvara, author of a Sanskrit-language history of the king’s reign (*Jainatarāṅgiṇī*). If such a translation was executed, it does not appear to be extant.

Secondary sources bibliography: Dhar, Kashi Nath, ed., 1994, *Śrīvara's Zaina Rājatarāṅgiṇī*, New Delhi, Indian Council of Historical Research - People's Publishing House. Ernst, Carl, 2003, “Muslim Studies of Hinduism? A Reconsideration of Arabic and Persian Translations from Indian Languages,” *Iranian Studies*, 36, 2, pp. 173–95. Shukla, N. S., 1974, “Persian Translations of Sanskrit Works,” *Indological Studies*, 3, 1–2, pp. 175–91.

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Originally published: 28 mars 2019

How to quote this article:

Audrey Truschke
Mahābhārata (Zayn al-‘Ābidīn translation)

Truschke, Audrey, , 2019, "Mahābhārata (Zayn al-‘Ābidīn translation)", *Perso-Indica. An Analytical Survey of Persian Works on Indian Learned Traditions*, F. Speziale - C. W. Ernst, eds., available at http://www.perso-indica.net/work/mahabharata_%28zayn_al-abidin_translation%29.

ISSN: 2267-2753

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