

Naima (140064)

01 Temmuz 2021

N

Naima

Mustafa **Naima** (Muṣṭafā Naʿīmā, 1065–1128/1655–1716), known by his pen name (*mahlas*, *makhlas*) Naima, was the author of one of the most highly regarded histories of the Ottoman state, the first in a series of state-sponsored histories that would continue until the end of the empire.

He was born in Aleppo, probably around 1065/1655, the son and grandson of Janissary commanders resident in the city. He arrived in Istanbul around 1091/1680, where he entered the *baltacılar* (*bāltacılar*, halberdiers), one of the corps of palace guards, and was trained for the scribal service. He displayed particular aptitudes for literature, history, and astrology; the highs and lows of his professional career have been attributed, to some extent, to his skills in the latter field. On completing his education, he was given an apprenticeship as secretary (*katib*, *kātib*) to a member of the Imperial Divan (*dīvān*) in 1097/1686 (Afyoncu, 84), and thus initiated a lifetime career in administration.

During these early years, he enjoyed the support of several highly placed officials,

among them the *reisülküttab* (*raʿīs al-kuttāb*, head of the secretaries) Rami (Rāmī) Paşa, who secured him a salary of 120 *akçe* (*ağçe*) per day from the Istanbul customs. By far the most important support came from the Köprülü Grand Vizier Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa (ʿAmūjzāde Hüseyn, in office 1109–14/1697–1702), who had in his possession manuscripts of a draft history by Şarih ül-Menarzade Ahmed Efendi (Şāriḥ al-Manārzāde Aḥmed, d. 1067/1657). Around 1110/1698–9, Amcazade Hüseyin Paşa commissioned Naima to make a fair copy of this manuscript, which formed the basis of the work for which he is known: the *Rawḍat al-Husayn fī khulāṣat akhbār al-khāfiqayn* (*Rawzatü-l-Hüseyn fī hulāṣati aḥbārī'l-hāfikayn*, “Garden of Husayn, in summary of the histories of East and West”).

Şarih ül-Menarzade was a member of the *ulema* (ʿulamāʾ, religious scholars), an established *müderris* (professor), and a protégé of the powerful *ulema* family of descendants of Hoca Sadeddin Efendi (Khōca Saʿduddīn, d. 1008/1599). As a result, he was close to such events as the deposition and execution of Sultan İbrahim (İbrāhīm, r. 1049–58/1640–8). No copies

146-147