# LETTER TO EDITOR

The Role of Qazi Ibn Kashef al-Din Mohammad (1622-1696) in the Development of Persian Medicine

### Dear Editor,

Qazi Ibn Kashef al-Din Mohammad (1622-1696) was one of the famous physicians of the Safavid court during the period of Shah Abbas (Shamlu, 1996, pp. 59-60). Despite having authored numerous books, his role in the development of medical sciences has mainly gone unnoticed until recently. In this article, we aim to bring attention to his significant contributions by highlighting some of his important works in the field of medicine.

During the Safavid era, some Safavid kings had a proper approach to Persian medicine, which led to the appearance of famous physicians, such as Baha al-Dawlah Razi, Hakim Imad al-Din Mahmud Shirazi, and Seyyed Mohammad Momin Tonkaboni (Khodaie, et al., 2018, pp. 2421-2427)

Qazi was a student of Sheikh Baha'i and Hakim Imad al-Din Mahmud Shirazi (Elgood, 2007, p. 544). Due to Nassibe Yousefian-Gilavan (Ph.D. Candidate)<sup>1</sup> Mohsen Naseri (Ph.D.)<sup>2</sup> Mahbubeh Bozorgi (Ph.D.)<sup>3</sup>

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One of his manuscripts that has received less attention is about the medicinal properties of Smilax china (Persian name: *choob-e-chini*), tea, and coffee (Beikbabapur, 2013, pp. 53-70) (Figure 1). One of the reasons for writing this manuscript was the syphilis epidemic during the author's lifetime. Since there was no cure for syphilis, S. china was prescribed by physicians as a useful medicine for this disease. The first book about syphilis in Iran was written by Hakim Imad al-Din Mahmud (Dalfardi,

مسلم ب القدار تون ترجيم من علم المحدسة العالمين لاصلون على عرضا تم الدت بن وخالا شرطا بين البسب الموني اولاد كم الالما مصور مسلواته الديليم تعجب أما لعب وحون لوتير فاطرا خاب الشر الرف ي كلب خان خالا شرطا بن طباب عليه الموة، واسلام من وعد س الصفوى فيسبنى بهادرخان خسد العدافي ليعكد إبداح اسه مرجوى از الصار خ شكوار عرل دانصاف ازا ملاط فالدوجور واعتباف مدراف وكوف في الصاف از اللير جماعا ورطواب اب ام مرزقة واع القدخ القرخ اطلكوت فاطرنابر زفهم برلا مودف فالحق وترعب ودوينا وفرد ورو الادور ماد بين تحاطرا تصرين الرفة مطلكا وغارى بن كالف الدين جريب كالفر سردكم معتدروسع وخاف ارخراص دوركه معلوم اين سنده نده بالتد مغارسي شوك فنفع ان عام التد وعمالة الوق خواص دو الاحتد دركت كمان ماذ يذكورت مثل حرصيسى وتهوه دحا يخطاط توششد فاغلان رشيعان امراكمونين عدسوام ارتى المشغع توردوتوات تروركا روخد الأرمواب مالون مدوست ل مون و سبع مورو و ب من مرور روب ، ما دلول ب ما دون مداندها مع مع العالمين عن ل عدله دجه مد عايد كردد و متوفيق من العد نعالم المنظم داس الم منتقر سباب عام الطلاع رسافيع من نبخ مراست دقس الذين ناريخ ما زكر مده دا الملاج بعب مدين مح يوجن درمان الماطي لا فرنك و درمن نزد مح الشيعة شروم دا الملاج بعب مدين مح يوجن درمان الماطي لا فرنك و درمن نزد مح الشيعة شروات فرورات كوسونى دنك وروان مذر فاكرا بن سبيخ در اا دا كما مى الأ

Figure 1. The first page of the treatise on Smilax china, tea, and coffee written by Qazi Ibn Kashef al-Din Mohammad (1591-1057)

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et al., 2013, pp. 169-73). Qazi, who was Hakim Imad al-Din Mahmud's student, explained and criticized the opinions of his teacher and discussed his own experiences in the field of syphilis treatment. In addition, he described the history of patients from the nobility and how he used *S. china* to treat their various diseases.

Another reason for writing this manuscript was the widespread consumption of coffee and tea in Iran for therapeutic purposes at that time. Qazi explained the appearance characteristics, therapeutic effects, method of use, duration of application, adverse effects, and contraindications for the use of S. china, tea, and coffee.

Due to political stability during the Safavid era, medical knowledge advanced in Iran (Dalfardi, et al., 2013, pp. 169-73). Qazi was one of the physicians who made many efforts in treating patients and wrote many books. A more in-depth scientific study of Qazi's manuscripts is suggested to evaluate his experiences in herbal therapy. In addition, his description of patients and the Safavid court will contribute to the greater clarity of Iranian medical history during the Safavid period.

#### **Authors' Contribution**

Nassibe Yousefian-Gilavan, Mohsen Naseri and Mahbubeh Bozorgi partcipatted in preparing the draft, they all read and approved the final version of the work.

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## **Conflict of Interest**

None.

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