INTRODUCTION

India had been the land of Muses from time immemorial. Long before the Muslims came to India, the country was humming with literary activities and the rulers patronised men of letters both of science and arts.

When the Muslim power was established in India they also followed the policy of patronising the learned. Royal courts became the portals of learning where men of high calibre thronged to grace them. According to the usage of time they engaged in panegyrics and lyrics for which they were awarded generously. This practice paved the way for developing the inherent qualities of intellectuals in works of diverse interest. Amir Khusrau, out of many, was fortunate to be admired and patronised by various kings and nobles of his time.

Being a born genius, he proved himself to be a prolific writer and produced a mass of literature, both in prose and poetry. He was the first Persian poet in India who was admired by both the high ups and the general masses. His was an amazing personality; any one who has a bit interest in Persian literature is bound to go through and appreciate his work. This humbleself being a

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a student of Persian had to go through some portions of his verses included in the text that created a special taste in me for this great poet. I went through the Kulliyat, and various articles on him incorporated in the souvenir brought out by the National Celebration Committee, Delhi in 1977. I found that out of the five Diwans of Amir Khusrau the last one has not been edited so far. Therefore, I resolved to take up this project.

As per advice of my Supervisor, the decertation have been divided into five chapters as under. The contents under each chapter have been briefly illustrated for easy reference in out lines.

CHAPTER-I : Political, social and religious background of the Age of Amir Khusrau.

Instability of Central Govt. --- court intrigues-- foreign invasions-- assassination-- general unrest --- .

Economic disorder --- sectarian tendencies among the Turkish imigrant-- Turkish slaves brought from Baghdad to serve as guards in the royal palace-- Influence of the sufies
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-Liberal policy of Jalaluddin Khilji--
progressive view of Khusrau--.

CHAPTER-II: The life and works of Amir Khusrau--
Works-- His five Diwans (1) Tuhfatus
Sighr (2) Wasatul Hayat (3) Ghurratul
Kamal (4) Baquia-i-Naquia (5) N hayatul
Kamal.

His five historical Masnavis :-
(1) Qiranus Sadain (2) Mifta-ul-Futuh
(3) Ashiqo (4) Nuh Sipuir (5) Tughlaq-
Namah. His five Khamsa in imitation of
Khamsa-i-Nizami-- (1) Matlaul Anwar
(2) Shirin Khusrau (3) Majnoon-wa-Laila
(4) Aina-i-Sikandri (5) Hasht Behisht.
Besides, other books Ijaz-i-Khusrawi,
Khazainul Futuh Afzalul Fawaid, Khaliq-
i-Bari etc.

CHAPTER-III: Critical appreciation of the Diwan-i-
N hayatul Kamal.

Over fifty verses have been dealt with
critically to assess the poetic ingenuity
of Amir Khusrau-- Full description of the
entire book--
CHAPTER-IV: Khusrau's position among other Persian poets -- Views and reviews on his personality by eminent scholars.

CHAPTER-V: Description of the MSS. of the said Diwan and peculiarity of style followed in editing it.

The Text of the Diwan-i-Miāyatul Kamal.

(a) Index of the poems of the said Diwan.

(b) Bibliography.

The Thesis has been completed under the kind supervision and guidance of Prof. Dr. Manal Shah Alquadri, Head of the Dept. of Arabic and Persian, Calcutta University. He extended his full co-operation and placed his entire library at my disposal which went to a great deal in bringing the project to completion.

The arduous task of collation required much industry and patience which the supervisor very kindly took upon him in deciphering the illigible words and

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and ambiguous expressions, here and there, in the MS. for which I am highly grateful to him.

I am also thankful to Prof. Mojibur Rahman, formerly Head of the Dept. of Persian, Maulana Azad College, Calcutta, who helped me in various ways whenever I approached him.

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Thanks are also due to Prof. Md. Ismail who always encouraged and advised me to do some research work.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my thanks to the Authority of Calcutta University Library who allowed me to consult various printed books on Amir Khusrau. I am also equally indebted to National Library Calcutta, where I read my microfilm
M.S. with the help of magnifying apparatus and also to the Asiatic Society and Iran Society, Calcutta where I got every facility to use the books on the subject.

I have special pleasure to record my thanks to the Director of Oriental Public Library, Patna, who allowed me to use the catalogues and go through the MSS. and printed material stored therein. He was kind enough to send me the xerox copies of the two MSS. of Nihayatul Kamal and the preface of Ghurratul Kamal.

Calcutta

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Shahnaz Begum