A research in the Sufism is a general craving for scholastic mind. Thousands of books have been written and researches done on this subject, but very few research has been done on the Qadria order in Bengal. Prof. Enamul Huq has mentioned the name of only few saints of this order in his book “A history of Sufism in Bengal”. Mohammed Yehya Tamizi has also made passing references to this illustrious order, though their contributions are enormous in changing the social cultural and literary scenario of Bengal specially in 18th and 19th centuries. I wonder how the researchers have neglected this glorious part of Sufism in Bengal.

In course of my studies I found many manuscripts in the personal libraries of the descendents of the Sufis of this order. I thought, it is my duty to bring them to the notice of inquisitive researchers.

Thus I made up my mind to initiate work on this topic, and when I discussed the matter with Dr. Ihsan Karim Burke, Professor and
Head, Department of Arabic and Persian, Calcutta University, who is a notable scholar in this field, he encourage me very much. I am fortunate enough to get him as my affectionate teacher. By his encouragement my work got impetus and I could complete it successfully.

I started collecting information and documents on contribution of Qadria saints of Bengal. In course of my research I found many manuscripts, which, in spite of having great literary, historical and spiritual values are still unknown to the scholars.

Regarding the collection of materials, I am greatly indebted to my father-in-law, Hazrat Syed Shah Rashad Ali Alquadri (1929-2005 A.D) son of Ghaus-e- Zamana, who helped me by giving first hand information about his revered father and illustrious ancestors. He also supplied some rare manuscripts and valuable books from his personal collection.

This Thesis is on “Ghaus-e- Zamana Hazrat Syed Shah Irshad Ali Alquadri, his contribution in Persian and Islamic
Studies”. He was a versatile scholar and a great saint of Bengal. Till now no research work has been done on him, and all of his compositions lie in manuscript form, in personal libraries of his descendents. I have carried out my work based mostly on these manuscripts so that his life and works can be preserved.

The Thesis has been divided into six chapters.

The First Chapter is introduction in which the history of the advent of Qadria saints in Bengal has been mentioned.

In the Second Chapter life and achievements of Ghaus-e-Zamana has been discussed.

The Third Chapter deals with the contributions of Ghaus-e-Zamana to Persian poetry.

The Fourth Chapter deals with the contributions of Ghaus-e-Zamana to Urdu poetry.

In the Fifth Chapter I have mentioned about his contributions to Arabic and his erudition on Islamic studies.
The sixth and last chapter contains the works of those scholars, poets, writers, and historians who has spoken highly about Ghaus-e-Zamana.

A conclusion is drown and bibliography and Index is supplied at the end.

I know some type mistakes have been done by my typist, I seriously apologies for the same and promise to correct them.

Syeda Shariqatul Moula Alquadri