Abstract of the Thesis

SAYYID FATH ALI WAYSÍ (1825-86) AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PERSIAN NA‘T

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Abstract of the Thesis

The present work discusses Sayyid Fath Ali Waysi of Chittagong as a Sufi and Na‘t writer of Persian language in the 19th century.

In this period, Bengal was a key centre of Persian literature. Literati with an aim to study and contribute to Persian literature started to congregate in this region. By the Act of 1837, Persian had been replaced by English as the official language of the country still the scholarly and literary activities in Persian had continued and many celebrated scholars and poets had emerged in the literary scenario of Bengal. European scholars attached to Calcutta Madrasa also contributed to research activities in Persian language. Persian journalism also emerged in Bengal in the same period.

Na‘t writing began from the time of the Prophet (PBUH) in Arabic. Over the centuries, many poets of Iran like Khaqani, Sanai, Shaikh Saadi, Qaani, Amir Khusrau, Urfi, etc. enriched Persian poetry by composing elegant Na‘t.

Sayyid Fath ‘Ali Waysi (1825- 1886), a celebrated Sufi of Naqshbandiya order, emerged as a great poet of Na‘t in the 19th Century. He took initiation from Sufi Noor Mohammad Nizampuri (d.1858). Waysi was under employment of Wajid Ali Shah at Metiabruj and then as a superintendent in the Political Pension Office of the Government. After resigning the post, he dedicated his entire life in preaching the tenets of Islam.

Waysi indulged in two main branches of Persian poetry, qasida and ghazal, but he turned ghazals into Na‘t s which is his very important contribution. His ghazals express his deep feeling of love for the Prophet. He was well versed in rhetoric and prosody.
Waysi has a distinctive position among his contemporaries, who chose Persian language for writing Na't, as he exclusively wrote Na't and displayed his mastery in this delicate field.

Waysi’s Persian Diwan, compiled by his maternal grandson Md. Mir Hassan was published in Calcutta in 1898 and republished in Kanpur in 1922 and again in 1935.

His excellence in mystical ideas has procured him an everlasting name because he matured his spiritual experience and served humanity by preaching high ideals.

On the whole, we see that Sayyid Fath Ali Waysi was an eminent Sufi poet of Persian of the 19th Century. After delving into his poetic accomplishments and deeply studying his Diwan, we find sublimity of thoughts, exquisiteness of expression, flight of imagination and depth of meaning.