PREFACE

The history of Muslim rule in India, in its various aspects had greatly impressed and fascinated me from my very school days. Though I had a large number of secondary sources at my disposal, I always nurtured a desire to explore and understand the foundation of Muslim rule in India, and its contribution to the cultural pattern of India, as presented in the original works written some 800 years back by contemporary writers. It was interesting to find out how the medieval historian felt and thought when he witnessed the course of history taking place before his very eyes. Quite often he himself was an active participant in shaping the history of the times as he held important offices at the Court. I wanted to have an insight into his mind, and the forces that worked behind his thoughts. It was because of this keen desire that I felt greatly exhilarated and privileged when the topic "A Study of Pre-Moghul Histories written in Persian Prose in India" was assigned to me by my esteemed supervisor, Dr. Ata Karim Burke, M.A, M.Litt, D. Litt. (Tehran); and I was honoured with the grant of a U.G.C. Research scholarship for carrying on the research work.

I may be allowed to say that there was very little material available on this topic, especially on the histories written during the early period of Muslim rule in India. Moreover the intricacy of the subject required a careful study of the original works. It is on this account that it took me several years to complete my work and make an appraisal of the historical writings of the period.

In the present work, I have made an attempt to present a complete study of each history written in Persian prose in India during pre-Moghul period, in eight separate chapters. The life of each author and his association with the court has been given in full details. The treatment of history in each work and a discussion on its literary value have been furnished in each Chapter. In the ninth and last chapter a review has been made on the general characteristics of Indo-Muslim histories wherein the working of the mind of their authors and the drift of their thoughts have been
explored. Besides original works, all the available modern books on the history of the period have been consulted in the preparation of this thesis.

In the end a word of explanation, the details of the events described in the histories have been presented in an abridged form, for the vast canvas of the work could not permit for more detailed presentation and I had to revise the manuscript several times.

I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness and regards to my most esteemed, erudite and noble guide, Dr. Ata Karim Burke, M.A, M.Litt, D.Litt. (Tehran) without whose valuable guidance, this dissertation would not have seen the light of day. I also want to express my utmost gratitude to Dr. Mojibur Rahman, M.A, Ph.D, (Retired) Head of the Deptt. of Arabic and Persian, Maulana Azad College, Calcutta and Dr. Md. Quamruddin, M.A, Ph. D, Reader in the Deptt. of Islamic History & Culture, University of Calcutta who encouraged and inspired me at every stage of my thesis writing.

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