The author of Tabaqat-i-Nasiri, Abu Omar Minhajuddin Usman bin Sirajuddin al-Juzjani commonly known as Minhaj-us-Siraj, came of an aristocratic family. His great grand father Imam Abdul Khalique Juzjani, an inhabitant of Juzjan, a place between Merv and Balkh, was instructed in a vision of migrate to Ghaznin from Juzjan. He complied with the instruction and came to Ghaznin where he received a warm reception at the Court of Sultan Ibrahim bin Sultan Masud and was married to one of the daughters of Sultan Ibrahim. (1) A son was born to him whose name was Ibrahim. Ibrahim was the father of Maulana Minhajuddin Usman, who was the father of Minhaj-us-Siraj, the author of the book.

The father of our author was a learned man and was held in great esteem by Sultan Bahauddin Md. Sam who had invited him to his Court by sending him a ring of emerald with the word "Sam" inscribed on it. Since then he was offered several posts by the Sultan till the year 582-3 A.H / 1186 A.D, when he was appointed Qazi - i - Lashkar of Hindusthan. (2) His mother was a playmate as well as class-mate to the great lady Queen Mah-i-Malik, the daughter of Ghya-thuddin. She held the author in great affection, and he was brought up under her personal care. (3)

According to the author he was eighteen years of age in the year 607 A.H, (4) which makes his year of birth 589 A.H/1193 A.D. Before coming to Uchch, he was attached to the Court of Malik Nasiruddin Abubakr, son of Saifuddin Suri of Madain. He also accompanied Malik Nasiruddin Abubakr to Ghuzev and Tamran in the

(1) Tabaqat, P.20.
(2) Ibid, P.106.
year 618 A.H. He reached from Khurasan to Uchch in the year 624 A.H / 1227 A.D. and was appointed immediately the principal of the Madrasah-i-Firuzi at Uchch. When in the following year, Sultan Iltutmish besieged Uchch, Minhaj was present at Uchch. But after Nasiruddin Qubacha was beaten by Iltutmish, he accompanied Sultan Iltutmish to Delhi where he arrived in Ramzan 625 A.H / 1228 A.D. Before moving to India he had served as envoy of peace between the rulers of Ghor and Khurasan. (1)

After the capture of the fort of Gwalior, by Iltutmish in Safar 630 A.H / 1232 A.D. he was honoured with the post of Qazi, Khatib and Imam of Gwalior. He continued on the said post till the year 635 A.H / 1241 A.D. Under Sultan Raziya, he was entrusted with the headship of Madrasah-i-Nasiriya. (2) Perhaps, he carried on the same capacity till the end of Sultan Raziya's reign. In 639 A.H / 1241 A.D. he was appointed Chief Qazi of Delhi by Muizzuddin Bahram Shah. (3) Unfortunately he could not enjoy this office for long, as Bahram Shah was soon deposed and assassinated by Turkish nobles and he resigned from the post of Qazi. Disturbed by subsequent chaos that followed Bahram's assassination, the author reached Lakhnauti, in Zil-Haj in the year 640 A.H / 1241-2 A.D, while his family stayed at Oudh. He was warmly received by Malik Husamuddin Ewaz Khalji at Lakhnauti where he stayed for two years (1241-2 to 1243-44 A.D). He returned

(2) Sadr-i-Jahan or Sadrus-Sudhur was a designation to denote a post that carried on such responsibilities as controlling the educational establishments, leading the Friday prayers, appointing Khatibs and Imams to the local mosques. Minhaj as the Chief Qazi was also the head of Ihtisab organisation and controlled the staff of the deptt, who were municipal officers and moral censors, posted in every muslim locality. He was also responsible for selection and recruitmet of the judicial staff and working of judicial institutions. Vide Habibillah, Foundation, PP. 239-240.
(3) Tabaqat, P.188.
to Delhi in Satar 643 A.H / 1244 - 5 A.D. and was assigned the post of Qazi of Gwalior and Head of Nasiriya College by Sultan Alauddin Masud. (1)

At the accession of Sultan Nasiruddin, in 644 A.H/1246 A.D, we find him attached to the Court of Sultan Nasiruddin. He wrote congratulatory poems on his accession and received lavish grants and rewards from him. (2) In the year 647 A.H / 1250 A.D, on receiving a letter from his sister, the author undertook a journey to Khurasan and returned to Delhi in the following year. During the reign of Nasiruddin, many honours and distinctions were heaped on Minhajus-Siraj. In the year 649 A.H. he was appointed Chief Qazi and in 652 A.H, the title of Sadr-i-Jahan was conferred on him. He was often nominated as intermediary in order to make peace between two parties at the time of any confrontation. His son Amir-al-Hejab Alauddin Ayaz Tabar Khan was appointed Naib-wakildar in 647 A.H. (3) The author accompanied the expedition to Malwa and Kalinjar in 647 A.H, and was given an award of 30,000 chitals and a village as Jagir. The amount continued to be given to him even after the expedition was over. Forty elephants were sent to the author's sister in Khurasan in the same year.

In Jamadi-al-awwal in the year 649 A.H, he was made Qazi. But he was dismissed from the post in 651 A.H, by the intrigues of Emaduddin Raihan who had been appointed wakil-dar after the transfer of Ulugh Khan to Nagaur. He was also confined to his house for six months. In the year 653 A.H, his fortune again

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(1) Tabaqat, P.194.
(3) Tabaqat, P.294.
favoured him and he was appointed Chief Qazi for a third time.\(^{(1)}\)

He was also titled Sadr-i-Jahan\(^{(2)}\).

He styled his work Tabaqat-i-Nasiri in honour of his patron Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmood. He began the work during the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin and brought down the account to the year 658 A.H / 1260 A.D, fifteenth year of Nasiruddin's reign. As he was attached to the Court, he gives a first hand account of the happenings of the time. He was an erudite scholar and studied a lot before venturing upon writing the history of the time, and mentions the following authorities from whom he happens to borrow.

1. Tarikh-i-Majaddawal by Abul Qasim Hamadi\(^{(3)}\)
2. Tarikh-i-Mubarak Shah Marvarudhi\(^{(4)}\)
3. Tarikh-i-Nasiri\(^{(5)}\)
4. Tarikh-i-Haizam Nabi\(^{(6)}\)

He consulted the works of Sijistani, Maqdisi, Ash-Shaibani, Abul Hasan Nabi and Ibn Haizam\(^{(7)}\) for the section on Mongols. He composed verses in both Arabic and Persian and held a prominent place among the poets of the Court.\(^{(8)}\)

The date of his death is not known. But it is evident that he lived after Nasiruddin as he gives the period of his reign though inaccurately.\(^{(9)}\) Besides he offers prayers for the longevity of the line of Balban, his successor and addresses him as Sultan Ulugh Khan.\(^{(10)}\) Here the question arises as to why Minhaj carries the account of Nasiruddin to the fifteenth year of his reign and

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\(^{(1)}\) Tabaqat, P.215.
\(^{(2)}\) Ibid, P.219.
\(^{(3)}\) Ibid, P.3.
\(^{(4)}\) Ibid, P.27.
\(^{(5)}\) Ibid, P.38.
\(^{(6)}\) Ibid.
\(^{(7)}\) Ibid, 324.
\(^{(8)}\) For specimen of His Arabic Compositions, See Tabaqat.
\(^{(9)}\) Ibid, P.207.
\(^{(10)}\) Ibid, P.229.
then is silent about any further event. The point raises many speculations. If the book was completed as the author tells, in 658 A.H / 1260 A.D. (1) when only fifteen years of Nasiruddin's reign had passed, how the author was able to furnish complete period of his reign. If it was a later addition, after the termination of Nasiruddin's reign, why does the author suffice to give the period only and leaves out the events of the remaining six years?

Minhaj's health could not have been an obstacle in the way of completing the account as there is evidence of his carrying out in the service of Balban for quite some time. His silence leads the later authors to suspect that either Ulugh Khan had Nasiruddin poisoned, or Mongol invasion took such bad shape, that the author had nothing to celebrate. According to Aziz Ahmed, Minhaj came to India in 1222 A.D. By 1260 A.D, he had grown too old to continue the account and Barani was too young at the time. Mongol invasions, if any did not result in conquests and no after effects were seen. (2)

The author has been freely quoted by the authors of Raudat-us-safa, Jami-ul-Hikayat, Tarikh-i-Guzideh and Tarikh-i-Ferishtah. He tried his hand in poetry too, and quotes one or two of his compositions in the Tabaqat-i-Nasiri. (3) He wrote congratulatory poems on the occasion of Nasiruddin's accession also on the accession of Muizuddin Bahram Shah. He also versified the expedition and victory of Nandana, achieved by Sultan Nasiruddin and called it Nasiri-Namah. (4) Another fath-nameh called Kitab-i-Nasiri was written on the victory of Ulugh Khan over Raja Dulki-Mulki, who ruled over the territory between Kalinjar and Kara in 695 A.H. (5) Both these works are extinct.

(1) Tabaqat, P.453.
(2) Vide Ahmed A., Political His and Institutions, P.251.
(3) Tabaqat, P.201.
SECTION-B: DESCRIPTION OF THE BOOK.

Tabaqat-i-Nasiri was published in the Persian series of the Bibliothica Indica in order "to place in the hands of the future Historian the best original materials for compiling a history of this country." (1) The Tabaqat-i-Nasiri is a general history, compiled by Minhaj-us-Siraj, opening with the birth of Adam and culminating in the biography of Nasiruddin of the slave dynasty. In the opinion of Major Lees, the portion of the work treating ancient history had little to do with the history of India. It was only an enlarged edition of the tabular form of the chronicle, Tarikh Mujaddawal compiled during the reign of Nasiruddin Subaktigin, the Ghaznavid ruler, which the author had chance to see when he became Qazi. (2) Tabaqat-i-Nasiri was published for the portion which deals with Indian history commencing with the Ghorid dynasty and concluding with Nasiruddin, son of Iltutmish (Tabaqat II and 17-23).

The Ghaznavid rulers were so related to the history of Hindustan and "the kings of Ghaznin have exercised so material an influence on the progress of events in India, and the affairs of the two counttries are so interwoven that any history of India without an account of the rise, and decline of the Ghaznavid dynasty, would certainly be incomplete. (3) The book is divided into sections of unequal length called Tabaqats. The Tabaqats excluded from the printed text, published in the Bibliothica Indica series contained

(2) Tabaqat, P.3.  
(3) Lees, W.N, Preface to the printed text of Tabaqat, P.1.
the Abbasids, Pre-Islamic Kings of Ajam, Kings of Yemen, Tahridiā, Saffarids, Samanids, Daylamites, (from Tabaqat I to X) and Saljuks, Sanjarids, Kings of Nimruz and Sistan, Kings of Kurd and the Khwarzmshahis (from Tabaqat XII - XVI). (1)

The book begins with a preface by the author which ends on page 4. It is short in comparison to the preface written by Barani. After saying glorifications of God and offering salutations to the Prophet and his companions the author gives information about how he came to write the book. Dedicating his work to Sultan Nasiruddin, son of Iltutmish he hopes that it would be suitably rewarded by the Sultan. With a prayer for the longevity of his reign, the preface comes to a close.

SECTION-XI

This section deals with the history of Sabuktigin, the Ghaznavid ruler. The author traces his lineage to Yazdigard Shahryar on the authority of Imam Abul Qasim Hamadi. There are fifteen parts of this section each dealing with a different ruler.

Part-I deals with the rise of Sabuktigin from the position of a slave to that of a ruler.

Part-II History of Sultan Mahmood. He was the first Muslim ruler to be styled as Sultan. His invasions of Hindusthan and territories of Persia have been described.

Part-III Consists of the history of Muhammed, the son of Mahmood, his overthrow after seven months of rule and his reinstallation; till his death, which occurred only four months later at the hands of his nephew, Maudud the son of Masud.

(1) Vidal, Tabaqat, Editors' Note, P.5, and P.27.
Part-IV Sultan Masud, son of Sultan Mahmood, a generous and chivalrous person ruled for seven years.

Part-V Maudud, the son of Masud who had acted as Masud's deputy during his absence in India, marched after his accession to India, killed his uncle Mahmmed b. Mahmood. He ruled over Ghaznin for nine years.

Part-VI The accession of Ali bin Masud and Muhammed bin Mahmood to the throne brought about disaster in the administration in the course of mere two months and Abdur Rashid was crowned.

Part-VII Sultan Bahauddaula Abdur Rashid was the son of Mahmud. When the Saljuqs invaded Ghaznin, Sultan Abdur Rashid sent Tughril, one of Mahmud's slaves to face the Saljuqs. After gaining victory there, Tughril returned to Ghaznin and killed Abdur Rashid.

Part-VIII Tughril, the wretched ascended the throne but was assassinated by Nuashtigin, a Turk armour-man, after 40 days.

Part-IX Farrukhzad bin Masud was crowned king. He ruled for 7 years.

Part-X Sultan Ibrahim bin Masud was a great ruler. The author gives the names of his sons. Saljuqs made peace during his rule. One of his daughters was married to the great grand-father of Minhaj-us-Siraj.

Part-XI Sultan Alauddin Masud bin Ibrahim tried to reform the administration. During his reign the Chamberlain Tughatgin crossed the river Ganges and entered India. He ruled for seventeen years.
Malik Arsalan bin Sultan Masud conquered Garmsir and ruled for a short period of two years.

Bahram Shah, after defeating Malik Arsalan became king. He conducted invasions to India. He also had to defend Ghaznin from the Ghorid ruler Alauddin Ghori's invasions, but was defeated in the battle three times and repatriated to India. After the departure of Ghorids, he went to Ghaznin but died soon. He ruled for 41 years.

Khusrau Shah bin Bahram Shah found the empire weakened due to continuous invasions by the Ghorids. So when Ghuzzs attacked Ghaznin, they took it very easily and retained it for 12 years till Sultan Ghyas-ud-din Md. Sam captured it again. Khusrau Shah came to India where he ruled for 7 years.

Khusrau Malik ascended the throne in Lahore. He led an easy life. His reign was cut short by the invasion of Muizzuddin Md. Sam. With his defeat, the throne of India passed into the hands of Shansabanids.

After Section XI, Six Sections from XII to XVI have been omitted by the editor of the printed text as they had no connection with Indian history.

SECTION-XVII

The author mentions his predecessor Fakhruddin Mubarak Shah Marvarudhifrom whose account he might have borrowed and which he happened to see in the possession of the Princess (daughter of Sultan Ghyath-al-din Muhammed bin Sam).
Zuhhak, the legendary ancestor of the Shansabanid dynasty is said to have ruled for about one thousand years. He became king by killing his father and conquered the whole world. He was captured and imprisoned by Malik Afridun. Bastam was one of Zuhhak's son. After Zuhhak's imprisonment, Bastam made peace with Afridun. The Shansabanid rulers are divided into the following four divisions by the author:-

(1) Kings of Firuz Koh
(2) The rulers of Bamiyan
(3) The Sultans of Ghaznin
(4) The Sultans of Delhi.

Part-I Amir Faulad Ghori, the son of Malik Shansab bin Harnak conquered the mountainous region of Ghor. During the Caliphate of Abbasids the dynasty made great progress. After the Amir, the kingdom passed to his sons and events following his rule have not come to light except that of Amir Binji.

Part-II Amir Binji Miharan was the first Amir of his dynasty to pay visit to the Court of Harun-al-Rashid.

Part-III Amir Suri was a great ruler and held sway over most parts of Ghor.

Part-IV During the kingship of Sabuktigin, the emirate of Ghor, had passed into the hands of Amir Muhammed Suri. He submitted to Sultan Mahmud's forces after a long siege by Mahmud's men. Mahmud took him and his elder son to Gilan, where Amir Muhammed Suri died. Sultan Mahmud sent his elder son to Ghor appointing him Amir.

(1) A legendary king of Persia with two hissing snakes on his shoulders which were fed on human brains. He was finally overthrown by Faridun.
Part-V Amir Abu Ali bin Muhammed bin Suri built mosques, schools and colleges. He was ousted by Abbas the son of his younger brother Sheesh.

Part-VI. Abbas was a cruel Amir. He rebuilt the fort constructed by Zuhhak and also built a fabulous palace. Sultan Ibrahim of Ghazna put an end to his treacherous rule and appointed his son Amir Muhammed Amir.

Part-VII Amir Muhammed bin Abbas was a kind-hearted ruler and tried his best to promote the welfare of the people.

Part-VIII Malik Qutubuddin Al-Hasan bin Muhammed bin Abbas dealt very strongly with the rebel tribes of Ghor. He was killed by an arrow struck in the eye, while laying siege to an insurgent tribe.

Part-IX After Malik Qutubuddin Hasan's death, his son Malik Izzuddin Al-Husain succeeded him. The author gives the names of his seven sons, all of whom achieved great fame in the world as sovereigns.

Part-X Malik Qutubuddin Muhammed bin Husain was the second son of Malik Izzuddin Husain. After the death of Izzuddin Husain, he was made governor of Warshadah. Later he was poisoned by the Ghaznavid ruler Bahram Shah in Ghaznin on suspicion. Hearing this Sultan invaded Ghaznin and captured it.

Part-XI After Malikul Jibal's departure to Ghaznin, Sultan Bahauddin Sam completed the half built city of Firuz Koh. Being the eldest son of Sultan Suri, Bahauddin Sam who had three daughters and two sons Sultan Ghayuthuddin Mohammed, Sam, and Sultan Muizzuddin Mohammed Sam, inherited the kingdom of Ghor after his father. He had
nominated Alauddin Jahansoz before he died at Kidan while en-route to avenge the blood of his father, killed by the rebels.

Part-XII Malik Shihabuddin Muhammed was the ruler of Madain. Malik Saifuddin Suri was his younger son who succeeded his father. His daughter was married to Muizzuddin Md.Sam. His son Malik Nasiruddin Abu Bakr held the author in great esteem and the author accompanied him to Ghuzev and Tamran in the year 618 A.H. This prince, after the expedition of Ghaznin and Ghor, attached himself to the Court of Sultan Shamsuddin in Delhi where he died in 520 A.H.


Part XIV After the death of Bahauddin Sam in Kidan Sultan Alauddin Al-Husain sat on the throne of Ghor and Piruzkoh. He waged war on Sultan Bahram Shah of Ghaznin, defeated him thrice, and in a fit of fury set fire to Ghaznin which burnt for seven days and nights. After taking revenge to his utmost satisfaction, he returned to Ghor and imprisoned his two nephews, Ghyathuddin Muhammed Sam and Muizzuddin Muhammed Sam. He was later defeated in his encounter with Sultan Sanjar who treated him graciously and reinstalled him on the throne of Ghor. During the last days of his reign the Ismailies (1) sent a delegation from Almut to his Court which was received with honour. The author expresses his dis-pleasure at the favourable policy of the Sultan towards the Ismailies.

(1) Hasan b.Sabbah was the founder of the Ismaili sect in Persia. He made the Almut, his stronghold. There were altogether 105 forts in his possession; out of which 70 were in Qahistan and rest in Iraq. The thirty five forts in Iraq were called 'Aimut'. Tabaqat PP.412-418.
Part-XV Malik Nasiruddin Al-Husain was crowned king when Alauddin had been held captive by Sanjar in Khurasan. After the return of Alauddin, a conspiracy was planned that brought about his death.

Part-XVI After the death of Sultan Alauddin his son Saifuddin Muhammed was elected Sultan unanimously. He meted out harsh treatment to the members of the Ismaili sect and released his cousins, Ghyathuddin Sam and Bahauddin Sam from prison. While engaged in a battle with Ghuzzs his commander-in-chief struck him with a spear. He was still half alive that a Ghuzz tempted by his gold apparel and belt, killed him.

Part-XVII Ghyathuddin Muhammed Sam was the brother of Muizzuddin Muhammed Sam. The author repeats the story of their imprisonment and release and gives an account of the conquests of Ghyathuddin and his encounter with Tajuddin Yalduz. Sultan Ghyathuddin seated his brother Muizzuddin over Ghaznin. Ghyathuddin was also honoured with a 'Khilat' from the Caliph. He ruled for 43 years and died in Herat in the year 599 A.H. The author gives the names of his ministers, Qazis, MalikS and details of his royal signet.

Part-XVIII Malik Alauddin Muhammed was the son of Malik Shujauddin Ali. During Sultan Ghyathuddin's reign Sultan Alauddin held the governorship of Ghor, Bust, Garmisir, Darmishan, and Ghaznin. During the battle between Ghyathuddin and Raja Pithora of Ajmer, in which Ghyathuddin was defeated, he was in the service of Sultan Ghyathuddin.
Part-XIX Sultan Ghyathuddin Mahmood bin Sultan Ghyathuddin Muhammed Sam cherished the ambition of becoming ruler of Firuz Koh, but his dream did not come true and the kingdom of Ghor was assigned to Malik Alauddin who was the son-in-law of Sultan Ghyathuddin. After Muizzuddin's death, Ghyathuddin made Alauddin prisoner and came into power. He nominated Tajuddin Yalduz and Qutubuddin Aibak to Ghaznīn and India respectively. He was assassinated by the supporters of Alishah, the fugitive brother of Khwārzam Shah.

Part-XX Sultan Bahauddin Sam, son of Sultan Ghyathuddin Mahmud was crowned king at the age of 14. After three months of Bahauddin's accession, Alauddin Aṭsar marched to Ghār and defeated Bahauddin.

Part-XXI Alauddin Aṭsar bin Al-Husain, the son of Alauddin Jahansoz ruled for four years after which he was defeated by Malik Nasiruddin Husain of Ghaznīn and was killed. None of his sons succeeded him.

Part-XXII Sultan Alauddin Muhammed was known as Malik Ziauddin before his assignment as ruler of Firuz Koh by Tajuddin Yalduz. He established cordial relations with Sultan Khwārzam Shah and paid a visit to Khwārzam where he died. With him ended the Shansabanid dynasty in Ghor. The author writes a prayer for prolonging the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin, the reigning king.
SECTION-XVIII

The section deals with Shansabanid kings in Tukharistan.

The author describes the land of Tukharistan which was a rich country, captured by Alauddin Jahansoz who assigned its rulership to his brother Malik Fakhruddin Masud.

**Part-I** Malik Fakhruddin Masud, being the son of a slave girl was denied office in the kingdom of Ghor. After the capture of Tukharistan by Sultan Alauddin Jahansoz, Tukharistan was assigned to him. The author gives an account of his achievements. The period of his rule is not given.

**Part-II** After the death of Malik Fakhruddin Masud his eldest son Shamsuddin Muhammad was crowned. He captured the whole of Tukharistan. The date of neither his accession nor his death has been given.

**Part-III** Sultan Bahauddin Sam patronised learned men. His kingdom extended to the border of Kashmir in east and to Tarmadh and Balkh in West, to Kashgar in north and to Ghor and Ghuzistan in South. After the death of Muizzuddin Md. Sam, he was invited to take up the throne of Ghaznin. But he died on the way.

**Part-V** Sultan Jalaluddin Ali b. Sam ruled for seven years till Sultan Mohammed Khwarzmshah attacked Bamiyan, plundered the wealth and killed him.

**Part-V** Sultan Alauddin Masud was an usurper who took possession of Tukharistan by marrying the widow of Bahauddin when her sons Alauddin and Jalaluddin were away at Ghaznin. Jalaluddin, on his return killed his uncle and regained his throne.
The section deals with the account of the Shansabanid rulers of Ghaznin. The first among them was Sultan Saifuddin Suri.

**Part-I** Sultan Saifuddin Suri was first in his line to be called a Sultan. He took Ghaznin after defeating Bahram Shah of Ghaznin. Bahram Shah went to India but availing himself of an opportunity attacked Saifuddin Suri who was captured and crucified on the bridge of Ghaznin. His death was, however avenged by his brother Alauddin Jahansoz.

**Part-II** Sultan Muizzuddin Muhammed bin Sam served his brother Ghyathuddin, the ruler of Ghor as Chief of the bodyguards for a period of one year. Later he was made governor of Kajuran, Istiah, and Tikinabad in Garmisir. After the capture of Ghaznin by Sultan Ghyathuddin in the year 569 A.H, he nominated Muizzuddin, ruler over Ghaznin and himself returned to Ghor. The author gives the details of Muizzuddin's military campaigns, his conquests and even defeat in India at the hands of Bhim Deo, the Raja of Nahrwala in the year 574 A.H. The author presents in greater details Muizzuddin's campaigns in Lahore, defeat of Khusrau Malik, the Ghaznavid ruler of Lahore. After the conquest, Ali Kirmakh was appointed governor of Lahore and Sirajuddin Minhaj, the father of author was made Qazi of India. Accounts of further conquests in Sirhand, battle with Raja Pithora, Muizzuddin's defeat, second campaign with Raja Pithora and subsequent conquests of Ajmer, Hansi, Sarsi have been given. Qutubuddin was appointed governor of Kahram who conquered
Kol, Delhi, Chandwal, Meerut, Thankir, Gwalior and Badayun.

He was assassinated by a 'fidai' a member of the Ismaili sect when he was returning to Ghor after crushing the rebellion of Khokars (1) in the hilly region of Koh-i-Jud. The author quotes a chronogram composed by one of the learned men of the times. The names of Qazis appointed by Muizzuddin, his slaves, ministers and details of his standards, royal signet have been given.

Part-III After Muizzuddin's death at Damyak, Alauddin Mohammed bin Sam ascended the throne of Ghaznin. He was defeated by Tajuddin Yalduz who sent him to Bamiyan. After the capture of Bamiyan by Khwarzm Shah, Alauddin died. His only son had been killed during Mongol invasion.

Part-IV The author traces the life of Sultan Tajuddin Yalduz from his position as a slave to Sultan Muizzuddin, his rise, his defeat and death at the hands of Sultan Iltutmish in Badayun where his tomb existed at the time of writing the book.

Part-V Qutubuddin Aibak is styled by the author as "Malik-ul-Karim" or the benevolent king. He captured the throne of Ghaznin from Tajuddin Yalduz. He ruled there for only forty days as Tajuddin again captured it. After Tajuddin, the land of Ghaznin passed into the hands of Khwarzm Shah.

This brings an end to Shansabanid rule in Ghaznin.

(1) The Khokhars - a Hindu (Jat) Tribe of the Jheelum-Chanab and Sutlej valleys with their habitat in the Jhang, Lahore, and Multan districts of Western Punjab as well as in the Sindh-Sagar Doab of the Indus region. They are distinct from the Ghakkars. Vide Husain M, Tughluq dynasty, P. 452, F.N. 3.
The Section consists of the account of those Sultans who had been slaves of Sultan Muizzuddin and later ascended the throne of India.

Part-I The first slave king was Qutubuddin Aibak. The author appears to have borrowed from Taj-ul-Maathir, for the account of Qutubuddin. He was called 'Aibak Shal' for his little finger was broken. It was during his reign that Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered Bihar and Nadia. The author narrates his conquests in India. His reign from the date of conquest of Delhi to his death lasted for 20 years and from the date when he was entitled to royal prerogatives, it lasted for only 4 years.

Part-II Aram Shah, the son of Sultan Qutubuddin was crowned King after him. Aram Shah died soon and the kingdom of Hindusthan was divided into four divisions. Sind was assigned to Nasiruddin Qubacha and Delhi to Shamsuddin Iltutmish. Khalji Maliks governed Lakhnauti and Kingdom of Lahore fluctuated among Nasiruddin Qubacha, Iltutmish and Tajuddin Yalduz.

Part-III Malik Nasiruddin Qubacha had served Sultan Muizzuddin in various capacities. The author follows the career of Nasiruddin Qubacha from the governorship of Uchch and Multan to his conquest of Dibal, Sind, Tabarhinda, Kahram and Sarasati. He committed suicide, following his defeat at the hands of Iltutmish, after a rule of 22 years.

Part-IV Malik Bahauddin Tughril was one of the oldest slaves of Sultan Muizzuddin. He was appointed governor of Thankar. He was builder of forts and cities and died a natural death.
Part-V It contains the account of the Khalji Maliks in Lakhnauti. Bakhtiyar Khalji was the first malik to conquer Bengal. He captured Bihar with a handful of men. Bihar was mainly inhabited by Brahmins and it was a great seat of ancient Indian culture and learning. The name 'Bihar' itself was derived from the Hindusthani word 'Vihar' meaning school or madrasah. Later he occupied Nadia which was ruled over by Raja Lakhmania. Bakhtiyar's ambition to conquer Tibet and Turkistan resulted in utter failure. Out of 10,000 military men only 100 survived. This failure dealt a heavy blow on him and he died a few days after the death of Sultan Muizzuddin in 602 A.H. The author adds a note that some people opine that he was assassinated by Ali Mardan but regrets his lack of knowledge about this.

Part-VI Malik Izzuddin Muhammed Sheran Khalji, was one of the nobles at the Court of Bakhtiyar Khalji. After the death of Bakhtiyar Khalji, every Amir became independent in his respective iqta (1) (Province). Md. Sheran was killed in the skirmishes among the Khalji nobles.

Part-VII Malik Alauddin Ali Mardan Khalji was nominated governor of Lakhnauti by Sultan Qutubuddin. After Qutubuddin's death he proclaimed himself king of Lakhnauti and took the parasol, ordered Khutbah to be read in his name and titled himself Sultan Alauddin. He let loose a reign

(1) 'Iqta' was a grant of state-lands or revenue, by a Muslim ruler to an individual in recompense for his service. Holt. P.M.(ed): His of Islam, Vol.II, Glossary, P. 908.
of terror, till a group of Khalji nobles killed him and Husamuddin Ewaz Khalji was named king.

Part-VIII Husamuddin Ewaz was titled Sultan Ghyathuddin. He was a benevolent ruler and built a great number of mosques, khanqahs, a fort and two bridges over the river Ganges. He was killed in an encounter between him and Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmood bin Iltutmish, after a rule of 12 years.

SECTION-XXI

The section deals with the account of Shamsi kings of India. The first Sultan was Shamsuddin Iltutmish from whose name, the author derives the name of the dynasty.

Part-I After a brief eulogy of the Sultan and description of his qualities, the author proceeds to narrate that Sultan Iltutmish belonged to a Turkish Tribe called Albari. His father's name was Yalam Khan. As he was superior in looks, wisdom, and disposition to his brothers they became jealous of him and sold him to some traders. The author compares the event to that of Joseph. Sultan Qutubuddin bought him and Aibak, another Turk slave for one lakh chitals in Delhi. Iltutmish was appointed Chief of the bodyguards. He kept on ascending the ladder of success till after the conquest of Gwalior, he was made governor of the place. Later Baran and Badayun were added to his jurisdiction. After the death of Qutubuddin, the nobles invited him to occupy the throne. In the year 607 A.H. Iltutmish ascended the throne of Delhi. The author furnishes a list of his conquests in chronological order. He died after a reign of 26 years on Monday, the 20th. Shaaban in 633 A.H.
The author gives full title of Sultan Shamsuddin Iltutmish, the names of his Chief Minister, Qazis and a list of his Maliks (1) and relatives. According to the editor's footnote the list completely differs from the one in another manuscript. The details of his standard and royal signet have been furnished.

Part-II. Malik Nasiruddin Mahmood was the eldest son of Sultan Iltutmish. He held the governorship of Hansi and Oudh. He had great achievements to his credit including the victory over Ghyathuddin Ewaz Khalji of Lakhnauti. He was assigned the governorship of Lakhnauti and honoured with a red parasol by the Sultan. After one and a half year he died.

The author concludes the account with a prayer for the longevity of life and reign of the then present ruler Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmood, namesake of the dead prince.

Part-III After the death of Sultan Iltutmish, Rukunuddin, the son of a Turkish Slave-girl Shah-Turkan was crowned king on Tuesday, the 29th. Shaaban in the year 633 A.H. Following his accession, he fell into excessive pleasure-seeking and extravagance. His mother Shah Turkan took the reins of government into her hands and tyrannized members of the royal family. She ordered Qutubuddin, the son of Iltutmish to be blinded. This gave rise to serious uprisings in all quarters. In 634 A.H, dissension arose between Sultan Raziya, the eldest daughter of Sultan Iltutmish and Shah Turkan. The people pledged allegiance
Rukunuddin was imprisoned in Delhi where he died after a rule of 6 months and 28 days. Minhaj counts his excessive love for pleasure, indulgence in extravagance, companionship of low-born people, and mild temperament as the causes of Rukunuddin's fall.

Part-IV

Raziya was a wise and sagacious lady. She used to issue farmans even during the reign of her father. Observing great abilities and high potentialities in her, Iltutmish nominated her, his heir apparent. At the time of nomination the nobles questioned Sultan's choice of a daughter where as he had sons. But the Sultan dismissed them by saying that the sons would fluctuate from the path of righteousness and indulge in luxury. Raziya would prove herself worthy of her position. His words came quite true but the nobles could not tolerate a women as monarch. Nizamul Mulk Junaidi, the prime minister and other maliks started an opposition movement against Sultan Raziya. After a spell of fight on the banks of river Jamuna, peace was declared and the authority of Sultan Raziya was established. She appointed Khwajah Muhazzib, her prime minister.

The author gives details of new appointments made by Sultan Raziya. Among them Jamaluddin Yaqut, the Amir-Akhur (master of the horses) got close access to the Sultan, which made nobles jealous. They were, moreover displeased for Raziya wore male dress, did not observe seclusion, adorned herself of the head-gear in the manner of Sultans, and rode on elephants and horses. A series of rebellions broke out in the empire and Raziya was
imprisoned in the fort of Tabarhinda where Malik Altunia married her and both of them proceeded to regain the kingdom. Raziya was defeated by the forces of Sultan Muizzuddin who had been crowned king in the meantime in Delhi. Raziya and Altunia retreated but fell into the hands of Hindus who killed both of them. The date of their assassination was Tuesday, 25th Rabiul-Akhir in the year 638 A.H. She ruled for 3 years and 6 days.

Part-V Sultan Muizzuddin Bahram Shah was a great tyrant but there were some agreeable points too, in his character. He did not allow any pomp and splendour for himself. The author quotes a 'Qasida' which he composed on the accession of Sultan Muizzuddin in 637 A.H. His rule lasted for two years and one and a half months. He was ousted by agitated maliks and nobles who killed him on Tuesday, the 18th. Zil-Qaddah in 639 A.H.

Part-VI Sultan Alauddin Masud Shah, son of Rukunuddin Firuz Shah succeeded Muizzuddin Bahram Shah. He ruled for 4 years and one month but fell into riotous living and neglected his duties and welfare of the state. So the Maliks invited Sultan Nasiruddin to Delhi and Alauddin was imprisoned on Sunday, the 23rd Muharram in the year 644 A.H.

Part-VII Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmood ascended the throne of Delhi after Alauddin. This Sultan was born after the death of his eldest brother Malik Nasiruddin. Iltutmish named him after the deceased prince. The author eulogises the attributes of Sultan Nasiruddin and quotes a few verses from the qasida, he composed in his honour.
The author gives full title of Nasiruddin Mahmood and a list of his relatives and Maliks at his Court. The colour of his royal standard and the inscription on his royal signet has been given. He ruled for 22 years. He ascended the throne in 644 A.H, and had ruled for 15 years at the time of writing the book.

The author records the events of Nasiruddin's reign in a year wise chronological order.

First year of the reign - 644 A.H.
Sultan Nasiruddin ascended the throne on Sunday the 23rd Muharram in the year 644 A.H. in the Green Palace. The author gives an account of Nasiruddin's dramatic journey from Bahraich to Delhi on the invitation of nobles and maliks and the crowning ceremony.

Second year of the reign - 645 A.H.
Sultan led military expedition to Nandana, in the territory of Qannauj. The author claims to have versified the event and conquest of Nandana, and named it Nasiri Namah after the name of the Sultan. He received ample rewards by the Sultan on writing the book and Ulugh Khan granted him a village in Hansi as Jagir. Kara was also captured by Ulugh Khan in the year 645 A.H.

Third year of the reign - 646 A.H.
The Sultan led a military expedition towards hilly regions and deserts. Names of the places have not been mentioned. The royal forces marched to the outskirts of the hills of Ratanpur. Where Malik Bahauddin Alibak Khwajah was killed by the Hindus.

Fourth year of the reign - 647 A.H.
Qazi Jalaluddin Kashani from Oudh was appointed Qazi of States. On Monday the 22nd, Shaaban, the royal army proceeded to river Jamuna and crossed it in order to fight a battle with Hindus in these regions.
Fifth year of the reign - 648 A.H.
Large number of Mongols were captured and sent to Delhi by Ikhtiyaruddin Gurez. In the same year Jalaluddin Kashani died.

Sixth year of the reign - 649 A.H.
Malik Izzuddin Balban revolted in Nagaur. But was successfully suppressed. Badayun was assigned to Sher Khan. Ulugh Khan conquered Malwa and Balwar.

Seventh year of the reign - 650 A.H.
Ulugh Khan led an expedition to Lahore and Ghaznin. Emaduddin Raihan instigated the Sultan against Ulugh Khan in his absence.

Eighth year of the reign - 651 A.H.
Sultan issued orders on Ulugh Khan to proceed to his iqta (province) in Sewalik and Hansi from Ruhtak where he had reached at the time. Several new appointments were made and old ones were cancelled. The author gives all details.

Ninth year of the reign - 652 A.H.
Bardar and Panjor fell into the hands of the royal forces. Sultan marched to Katihar to chastise the Hindus of the place. The title of Sadr-i-Jahan was conferred upon the author, while they were in Kol. In the same year peace was established between the Sultan and the nobles against whom Malik Emaduddin Raihan had instigated. Emaduddin Raihan was ordered to go to Badayun.

Tenth year of the reign - 653 A.H.
Sultan Nasiruddin developed some difference with his mother and assigned to Qutlugh Khwajah, to whom she had married, the province of Oudh and asked them to go to Oudh. In the same year Malik Qutubuddin was imprisoned and he died in imprisonment. A battle was fought between Qutlugh Khan and Malik Baktam Rukuni in Badayun. Malik Baktam was killed and Qutlugh Khan retreated.
Eleventh year of the reign - 654 A.H.

After the return of royal forces to Delhi, Qutlugh Khan attacked Kara Manekpur. Arsalan Khan Sanjar defeated him and he retreated to Santor where he was defeated by Ulugh Khan. The tribal people of the region were subjugated and the place upto Salmor was captured.

Twelfth year of the reign - 655 A.H.

In this year, Mongol hordes reached Uchch and Multan through Khurasan. Malik Kishlu Khan concluded a treaty and joined hands with them.

Thirteenth year of the reign - 656 A.H.

On Sunday the 6th Muharram the royal army marched from Delhi to crush the Mongols who had invaded India. On Wednesday the 9th, Muharram Hulagu, the Mongol Chief was defeated by the forces of the Caliph Al-Mustasimbillah, in Baghdad. (1)

Fourteenth year of the reign - 657 A.H.

Malik-Al-Nawab Aibak was sent to fight the infidels of Ratanpur. The author mentions new assignments and furnishes a list of persons who died in the year.

Fifteenth year of the reign - 658 A.H.

On the 17th Safar Ulugh Khan proceeded to crush the rebellion in Mewat. The expedition resulted in victory.

The author expresses his intention of writing further at a later time. He asks forgiveness for any mistake that might have crept in and claims to have written from reliable sources. He concludes the passage with a prayer for the longivity of the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin and wishes for a good name for him in this world and hereafter.

(1) The editor furnishes a footnote to the effect that all four manuscripts of Tabaqat hold that Hulagu was defeated but contrary to the report, majority of historians record that Baghdad fell to the forces of Hulagu and Caliph Al-Mustasim billah was killed. Vide Tabaqat, P.225,footnote-1. It is strange that Barani also narrates the defeat of Hulagu at the hands of forces of Mustasim billah. Minhaj, himself contradicts his own statement and records the defeat and death of Mustasim at the hands of Hulagu, Tabaqat, P.430.
The section records the careers of Shamsi Maliks. The author considers it his duty to give an account of the nobles and maliks who were attached to the Courts of Iltutmish and his descendants. The discussion on their services to the empire, the affection and regards in which the Sultan held them, their achievements and victories especially of Ulugh Khan Balban were deemed by the author, worthy of the reader's interest. The account of the Maliks date from 625 A.H. to 658 A.H. The list is arranged according to the rank and popularity attained by the Maliks. The author offers a prayer for the longivity of the line of Sultan Ulugh Khan (Balban). That shows that the author added these portions after the death of Nasiruddin and in the reign of Balban.

A life sketch of each of the twenty five maliks of the Shamsi Court has been given in the twenty five parts of this section. Each part begins with the name of the tribe to which the Malik belonged, his career, the ranks held by him, and the date of his death.

The biographical account, of the following Maliks have been recorded:

Part-I Tajuddin Sanjar Kazlak Khan.
Part-II Malik Kabir Khan Ayaz-al-Muizzi Hazar Mardah
Part-III Malik Nasiruddin Aitamar-al-Bahai.
Part-IV Malik Saifuddin Aibak.
Part-V Malik Saifuddin Aibak Yaghan Tut.
Part-VI Malik Nasrat-al-din Taisi Al-Muizzi
Part-VII Malik Izzuddin Tughril Tughan Khan.
Part-VIII Malik Quamaruddin Qairan Tamar Khan.
The last Malik Ulugh Khan became monarch after Nasiruddin's
death. That may be the reason for the author narrates the events
of Ulugh Khan's life in greater details. More than half of the
section XXII is devoted to the biography of Ulugh Khan.

A full account of Balban's career from his appointment
as Khass-dar in the Court of Sultan Iltutmish in the year 630 A.H,
and various ranks held by him including the military campaigns led
by him to various places and the victories attained till 658 A.H,
have been recorded. The author gives the date at the end of the
Chapter as Shawal 658 A.H.

(1) Tabaqat, PP. 281-324.
The Section XXII is devoted to the important events in the history of Islam, and to the rise of Mongols as the author points out in the heading.

He gives a detailed account of the origin of Mongols, their rise and victory over Islamic states of China, Transoxiana, Tukharistan, Zawel, Kabul, Ghor, Ghaznin, Tabaristan, Persian, Khuzistan, Bakar, Mosul, up to the boundary of Syria and Rum (Asia Minor). The author refers to Tarikh-i-Maqdisi, Tarikh-i-Ibn-i-Haizam in which traditions about the Mongols have been mentioned.

Part-I It deals with the Qara Khitais (1) their origin and rise till they embraced Islam after their defeat at the hands of Sultan Mohammed Khwarzm Shah in Turkistan.

Part-II Chengiz Khan appeared in the year 602 A.H. The author speaks of him as one of signs of the approaching day of resurrection and gives an account of his career, his campaigns and devastations. He established cordial relations with Sultan Khwarzm Shah. A caravan of Mongol traders who had come to Khwarzm, for trade and commerce was plundered by Qadar Khan Anzar who killed all of them. One of them escaped death and went back to Chengiz Khan with the story. The author mentions to have heard from the son of Malik Rukunuddin Khamsar who heard if from the king of Sistan (name not given)

(1) Khita, an eastern Mongol Tribe infiltrated into China and gradually made Peking their capital in 938 A.D. They adopted Chinese culture and reigned for more than 180 years at Peking. After the fall of Peking to Kin Tartars, a north Manchurian tribe in 1123 the Khitains fled in bands. One such group under the Leadership of Yeh-lu-Shih sought refuge in Beshbaligh. Ta-Shih collected an army and in a course of mere six years built up an empire extending from Zangarian desert to the confines of India. His descendants and followers were known as Qara-Khitais. Vide: Arthur Walley: Introduction to the travels of an Alchemist as cited by Habib & Nizami, Comp. His of Ind. Vol. P.39.
that the whole empire of Khwarzm Shah fell to the revengeful advancing hordes of Chengiz Khan in 626 A.H.

The author gives an account of how Chengiz Khan annihilated Islamic States of Anzar, Bukhara, Samarqand, Transoxians, Farghana, Jab, Kaikrab, also called Ghurjestan, under the title -suite editati Aasan (اسبسطیا).

Sultan Khwarzm Shah after the fall of Bukhara took refuge in Nishapur, and Chengiz Khan set an army 60,000 strong under the Commandership of Sauds Bahadur and Yama Noen. The forces crossed river Jaihung and played havoc in Herat. In the ensuing battle fought in Herat the son-in-law of Chengiz was killed. The chain of revenge was let loose. Sultan Khwarzm Shah was searched in every corner of Tabaristan and Mazendran. Unable to find him out, the Mongols attacked the army of Rukunuddin Ghori, the Sultan's son in Iraq and massacred him and his whole army in cold blood.

Under the Heading the author describes the capture of Tirmiz, and the march of Mongol forces towards Khurasan, Ghor and Ghaznin. A great catastrophe befell these places, even Garmgir and Tukharistan were not spared. Later they besieged Firuz Koh. After a fierce battle of 21 days they left Khurasan for Transoxiana, while a portion of the army 20,000 strong was left to besiege the fort of Tolak. At that time the author was also among those besieged in the fort of Tolak.

Under the heading the author describes Chengiz Khan's march to Nasr Koh. He gives a vivid account of the resistance displayed by the
inhabitants of Nasr Koh, who, however, fell later and were massacred by the forces of Chengiz Khan.

Under the title "...", the author describes arrival of Chengiz Khan's son in Ghaznin and defeat of Sultan Jalaluddin al-Munkirinā, under a fresh heading, i.e., "...", the fall of the fort of Walakh and the killing of inhabitants of the fort by the merciless Mongols have been described. Under separate headings, the author describes the fall of the cities of Khurasan, Kaliyun, Fewar, Firuz Koh, Siafrod and Ashiar. The death of Chengiz Khan has been described under the title - "..."

Before his death, Chengiz Khan nominated Ughtai his successor.

Part-III Toshi bin Chengiz Khan was the eldest son of Chengiz Khan. He took a fancy for the land of Qabchaq and once expressed his desire for killing his father, making alliance with Sultan Muhammed and re-habiting the land of Qabchaq. But his brother Chaughtai informed his father of Toshi's plan who poisoned Toshi. He had four sons, Batu, Chughta, Sabin and Barka embraced Islam when he grew up and according to the author only Barka was alive at the time of writing the book in the year 658 A.H.

Part-IV Ughtai was very merciful and good natured monarch. He was a great friend of Muslims and under his rule, Muslims lived in prosperity. He built mosques in all cities of Tankat, Tumghaj, Tibet, and China. Muslims were called brothers and friends by him and they exercised complete religious freedom. The author
cites a story describing how Ughtai saved a Muslim from being killed at the hands of Chughtal who was a sworn enemy of Muslims. Another story is related by the author in which the author describes how Ughtai dismantled Chughtai's plan for mass massacre of Muslims, to conclude that Ughtai had embraced Islam in private.

Under separate heads, the author mentions Ughtai's campaigns of Iraq, Turkistan, Ghaznin, Lahore and his death. After one and half year mourning, his wife Tarkina Khatoon was made queen. She ruled for four years till she was killed by Mongols who crowned her son.

Part-V Chughtai bin Chengiz Khan, second son of Chengiz Khan was a great tyrant, blood shedder and a man of ignonimous character. He was an enemy of the Muslims and never allowed a Muslim to say prayers or perform any Islamic rite. He died in a hunting place while his own arrow struck him. The author sees his death as heavenly punishment for killing an innocent mystic, only a few days earlier.

Part-VI Kek, the younger son of Ughtai, after his accession sent armies to China, Iraq, Hindusthan, Khurasan and Iran. One day Kek called an Imam to his Court and assaulted him, showed disregard to Islam and the Prophet. The very same night he died. His sons, after his death called the Imam and asked forgiveness.

Part-VII Batu, the son of Toshi, inherited Khwarzm and Rum from his father. Muslims enjoyed all privileges during his rule. The author states that Batu was a muslim at heart.
He died after a rule of 28 years. According to the author, the Mongols observed a cruel practice of burying alive the most favourite person of the dead one with his dead-body. The author relates an interesting anecdote in this connection. (1)

Part-VIII Manku Khan, the son of Tuli Khan, the son of Chengiz Khan succeeded Kek. Before his accession he had embraced Islam at the advice of Barka, a Muslim himself. He sent armies to Qahistan to crush the Ismailies whom the author calls 'Melahidah'.

Under the title the author narrates that the founder of the 'Melahidah' sect generally known as Ismailies was Hasan Sabbah. He had taken the fort of Basar, built with a large expense on a mountain near the vicinity of Qazwin, and made it his head quarters. The forts occupied by Ismailies were taken in the course of ten years and members of the sect were killed. There were altogether 105 forts. Seventy existed in Qahistan while thirty five were situated in Iraq and were called 'Almut'. Only one fort situated on the mountain between Khorasan and Iraq was not captured even after a siege of ten years.

Part-IX Hulagu bin Tuli bin Chengiz Khan settled in Badghis and made Badghis his capital. He constantly fought with the forces of Caliph Al-Mustasim. Under the heading the author relates the fall of Baghdad, the assassination of Al-Mustasim. After the destruction of Baghdad, Hulagu sent his son to invade Halb, Mayafarqin and Aimad. Under the title

(1) Tabaqat, PP. 407-410.
the author tells of the failure of Mongols in capturing the fort because every night a few mysterious soldiers, clad in white, appealed from the fort and killed countless men of Hulagu in a miraculous way. Hulagu was compelled to lift the siege and returned. The author is doubtful about the fate of Hulagu. Some say that he was defeated by the forces of Syria while some describe him to be engaged in the battle with Malik Nasir Halab and some go still further to describe him as dead and his son ruling at Ray when Tabaqat-i-Nasiri was written. (1)

Under the title the author quotes a qasida by Yahya bin Aaqab who was pupil of Ali, the fourth Caliph, and also teacher of Hasan and Hasayn bin Ali. The qasida comprises of 28 verses in Arabic. The author gives Persian translation of each verse. It is said to be a prediction of the rise of a race, characterised with flat face and nose and their lust for shedding blood, who would be victorious in all Islamic states upto Baghdad. The prediction came true in the shape of the Mongol menace.

Minhaj explains each verse and interprets it according to the events in the history of Mongols.

The author expresses his unwillingness to finish his work with the account of infidels (Mongols) and switches on to Balka (Barka?) Khan bin Toshi bin Chengiz Khan who had embraced Islam.

(1) In the year 603 A.H, the 9th of Rabiul-awwal, Hulagu died in Azarbaijan aged forty eight, after ruling over Iran for nine years and three months' Vide Raverty (Tr.) Tabaqat, P. 717, f.n. 5.
Chapter-X  Balka Khan was the ruler of China, Qabchaq and Turkistan. In his young age, he had read Quran from a Muslim teacher. In the year 631 A.H. Ambassadors from Balka’s Court visited Iltutmish’s Court in Delhi, where they were given a warm reception. The members of the delegation performed prayers in the Jama mosque of Gwalior with the author as the Imam.

Under the heading the author gives an account of Balka Khan’s conversion to Islam, and relates two anecdotes heard from Syed Ashrafuddin, son of Syed Jalaluddin, the famous saint who reached Delhi from Samarqand on a business tour. These anecdotes describe Balka as a true Muslim and give evidence to his love for Islam.

In the year 658 A.H, as the author relates on the authority of a group of travellers from Khurasan that Manku died and the kingdom passed over to Balka. He was titled Sultan Jamaluddin Ibrahim. In the same year, he sent his messenger Imam Shamsuddin Maghribi to Sultan Nasiruddin in Delhi. The author concludes the account with a qasida in praise of the Sultan.

At the end, the author asks forgiveness for any mistakes that might have crept in and writes that he was honoured with a robe of honour by the Sultan when he presented the Tabaqat to him. A village was granted to him in reward and an annual award of 10,000 chitals (1) were fixed for him. Ulugh Khan presented him with 20,000 chitals and various other gifts. The author expresses

(1) Chital: A copper coin equivalent to some 288 grains of copper. It valued to forty-eight part of the silver Tankah. Wright H.N, The Sultans of Delhi, Preface, P. VI. A silver tanka was equal to fifty jitals or copper coins. Vide Ferishta as cited by Habib & Nizami, Comp. His of Ind, Vol.V. P. 378.
his gratitude to Ulugh Khan in another Qasida consisting of seven verses and gives the date of completion of the book as Rabiul-Awwal 658 A.H.

SECTION-C. LANGUAGE AND STYLE

Tabaqat is written in plain, unassuming style remarkable for the economy of speech. The language is simple and correct. The author refrains from high flown euology. The narration of events is plain, in a straight forward manner and accounts for the confidence the reader feels in the "sincerity of his statements and accuracy of his knowledge". (1) Arberry remarks, 'it must have been regretted by many students of Indian history that Juzjani's economy of speech, an inheritance from the older school of Persian writing should not have been maintained by the late annalists of Muslim India."(2) The style is simple and free from exaggeration which dominates the early Indo-Persian writing, Taj-ul-Maathir. The narration is interspersed with a few lines of poetry here and there. At the accession of Muizzuddin Bahram Shah and Nasiruddin Mahmood, he wrote congratulatory odes which he quotes in the book. The work is very learned and the author quotes from authentic sources in Arabic. (3) He has ample knowledge of Quran and traditions and interprets the Arabic Qasida written by Yahya bin Aaqab, a pupil of the fourth Caliph Ali, and teacher of Hasan and Husain bin Ali, predicting the fall of Islamic states at the hands of Mongols. (5)

The author dedicates the work to Nasiruddin and offers prayers for the longevity of his reign quite often. This makes the

(2) Arberry, Classical Persian Literature, P. 155.
(3) Tabaqat, P. 326.
work eulogistic in treatment. One fault of the book lies in the repition of events. The work is so planned that the author has to repeat things in more than one place. The records of the reign of Nasiruddin and the memoir of Ulugh Khan deal more or less with the same information. The assassination of Sultan Raziya and Altuniya has been recorded in the account of both Sultan Raziya and Alauddin Bahram Shah. At places Minhaj presents very good pen-picture of battle field. (1) Obviously there is no Hindusthani element in the language, only one Hindi word "Bora" is used. A specimen of language follows:-

(1) Tabaqat, PP.364-370.
(2) Ibid, PP.281-282.
Tabaqat-i-Nasiri is valuable for it offers an eye-witness account of the Ghorid conquest, and foundation of Muslim rule in India. Like Amir Khusrau and Ziauddin Barani, the author had close access to the court all through his life. Minhaj-us-Siraj, rather, was at the very helm of affairs as he held high judicial and ecclesiastical offices under the Shamsi Sultans. He was not only an eye witness but also an actual participator in some of the events narrated in the work. 

(1) The book is held in very high esteem both in India and in Europe. Ferishta and the authors of Raudat-us-Safa, Jami-ul-Hikayat, Tarikh-i-Guzidah have freely quoted from the Tabaqat. "Anquetil du perron calls it 'a precious work' and Elphinstone mentions it as 'a work of the highest celebrity'. Stewart in His History of Bengal follows it very closely and considers it a very valuable book." (2) In the words of Major Raverty "Tabaqat-i-Nasiri is one of the four most important works with respect to the early rulers of India, and that part of central Asia, upon which all eyes have been lately turned, and are likely to be turned in future." (3)

It is evident from the work that the author took great pains in collecting the materials from trustworthy sources, whom he often mentions in the course of his narration and some of which are no longer extant. Major Lees laments the scarcity of materials for the history of Early Muslim period in India and considers Tabaqat-i-Nasiri "valuable as a correct index of the truth of other works". (4)

(3) Raverty (Tr.), Tabaqat, Vol.I, Preface, P. XI.
(4) Tabaqat, Preface to the Printed Text; P. 3.
Considering the vast canvas that the author covers, he is meagre in details. Mr. Morely observes that "many portions of the history are too concise to be of much use." It is disappointing to readers in many places, as their curiosity is left unsatisfied. As far example, he does not give enough details of the march of Mongols into Bengal in 642 A.H / 1245 A.D. There is no mention of the son of Raja Pithora of Ajmer who after the death of his father was set up as a tributary ruler over Ajmer, as mentioned by the earlier authority Taj-ul-Maathir.

The author was not assigned to write the history by Sultan Nasiruddin. It was on his own accord that he had undertaken the job. It would be wrong to speculate that the position held by him might have been an obstacle in his way of judging things impartially and forming independent opinion. The author is unbiased and capable of objective thinking. He is the only Indo-Persian historian who probes deep into Sultan Raziya's fall and finds it to be an outcome of male prejudice, characteristic of the orthodox Turk nobility. Quite contrary to Hasan Nizami, Minhaj records both triumphs and defeats of Muizzuddin Md. bin Sam and does not refrain from recording reverses in his military expeditions to India.

In addition to the accounts of Kings and rulers, the author gives biographies of princes belonging to various dynasties, and maliks holding important offices at the Shamsi Court. New innovations were a speciality of Minhaj. He devotes a full chapter to Seljuqs of Rum (Anatolia) a topic henceforth untouched by Eastern writers, and the Kurdish dynasty of West Asia which had not been dealt by any Persian author before Minhaj. The Chapter

(1) Morely's catalogue of Arabic and Persian MSS in the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.
(2) Tabaqat, P. 185.
dealing with contemporary history are indeed very enlightening. The author was an active participant in the events of fifty years standing from the accession of Sultan Iltutmish till the end of the book. His earlier record of about thirty years are no less illuminating. He collected information for the period from his immediate ancestors and trustworthy persons. A biographical sketch has been given for each of the twenty five nobles who adorned the court of Iltutmish and were much at the helm of affairs. Quite contrary to Barani, Minhaj never draws conclusion from the facts furnished by him nor comments on them. The reader is left to study the facts and form his own judgement. He accords special treatment to Nasiruddin and gives an year wise survey of his reign up to the fifteenth year.

As is the case with most Indo-Persian historians, Minhaj neglects the progress of the society as a whole. Only the events at the court attract his attention and for the most part of the book he is occupied with the details of royal march, military expeditions, palace intrigues, and the movement of high dignitaries at the Court. The last chapter dealing with the Mongols, their rise and havoc played by them consists of informations received from travellers and immigrants. In this chapter we find stories such as hitting back of stones hurled by Mongols in the siege of Mayafarqain and appearance of mysterious soldiers from the fort every night. (1) Dr. Nabi Hadi opines that "many of such anecdotes, thoughtlessly registered by Minhaj were in later centuries rejected by common sense, but the one regarding 'Alquami" has survived to satisfy the malicious taste of bigotry" (2) At one

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(1) Tabaqat, PP. 436-438.
point, Minhaj, otherwise, an impartial writer, could not withhold himself from maligning the Ismailies and following the line set by his predecessors, does not present a balanced view of the movement. (1)

Slight blunder may be detected here and there as for example Rudaki's quasida attributed to Muizzi. (2) A great mistake of the author is to show Abbasid Caliph Al-Mustasim's victory over Hulagu, the Mongol Chief. (3) He contradicts his own statement by the time he reaches the account of Mongols in the last chapter, and throwing to the winds what he previously recorded, narrates the defeat of Mustasim's forces, his confinement and killing at the hands of Mongols. (4) Tabaqat ranks high among all Indo-Persian histories and the blemishes notwithstanding "its value as our main original sources can hardly be over-estimated." (5) It is because of the intrinsic value of the work that Major Raverty translated it in full with notes and introduced it to the western world.

(1) Tabaqat, PP. 412-418.
(2) Ibid, P. 9.
(3) Ibid, P. 225.
(4) Ibid, P. 430.
(B) Habibullah: Foundation, P. 10.