ABSTRACT

A Critical Edition of Aqil Khan Razi’s Masnawi Shama-o-Parwana with Introduction and Notes

Mir Askari Aqil Khan, with the poetical title Razi, which he derived from his spiritual guide shaykh Burhanuddin Raz-i-Ilahi, belonged to a sayyid family of khawaf in Khurasan, but was born in India.

Aqil Khan Razi began his career by entering the service of Aurangzeb while the later was the Governor of Deccan. Soon he rose to become one of the most influential nobles and an intimate friend of Aurangzeb. Serving the Emperor in various capacities over a long period Aqil Khan finally attained the mansab of four thousand and the post of Governor of Delhi. He died at the age of eighty two in 1696 A.D.

A gifted scholar, Aqil Khan possessed deep insight into the subtle secrets of Tasawwuf. The great mystical poet Bectil was indebted to him for his knowledge and interest in the specific field. Aqil Khan’s most important works are supposed to be his masnawis, in which he gave indigenous tales special living charms. Such masnawi’s as Shama-o-Parwana and Mehr-o-Mah exemplified his talent in this particular field. He narrated the Indian stories of Ratan Sen and Padmawat in Shama-o-Parwana, Manohar and Madhumalti in Mehr-O-Mah in a beautiful poetic style. Besides the above named masnawis, Razi also composed the Naghmat-ul-Ishq and Muraqqa, a mystical masnawi in the metre and style of Jalaluddin Rumi.

As a ghazal writer Razi seems to have been less appreciated, if not neglected. He wrote fine ghazals whose personal touch and varied style does not fail to impress the reader Razi has also left noteworthy prose works which include Waqiat-i-Alamgiri, Samarat-ul-Hayat, Kashkol, Risala-i-Amwaj-i-Khubi and some letters.

It is unfortunate that despite the glorious tributes paid by Persian scholars to his poetic genius, no substantial work has been done to critically edit his masnawis.

The aim of the present research work entitled “A Critical Edition of Aqil Khan Razi’s Masnawi Shama-o-Parwana with Introduction and Notes” for the award of the degree of Ph.D. is to assess and analyse the contribution of Aqil Khan Razi amongst the
plethora of Persian poets. The manuscripts of the poet’s masnawi is preserved in Maulana Azad Library, Aligarh and Khuda Bakhsh Library, Patna.

The Present thesis is divided into following four chapters.

**Chapter-I: life of Aqil Khan Razi**

This chapter provides biographical Sketch of Aqil Khan Razi such as proper name family background services to the court of Aurangzeb, character and death etc.

**Chapter-II: Works of Aqil Khan Razi**

This chapter deals with the Prose works and poetry of Aqil Khan Razi such as Waqay-e- Alamgiri, Samarat-ul- Hayat, kashkol, Neghmat-ul- Ishq and Diwan an analysing there literary value.

**Chapter-III: Masnawi writing of Aqil Khan Razi**

This chapter devoted to critically analyse Aqil Khan Razi’s Own contribution to persian masnawi such as Muraqqa “Mehr-o-mah and Shama –o – Parwana. Besides, Persian translation of Padamavat is also provided.

**Chater IV: Text of Shama –o –Parwana**

In this chapter accurate, authentic and exact text Shama –o –Parwana has been prepared after comparing and collecting different manuscripts of Shama –o – Parwana.

A detail bibliography is appended at the end of the Thesis.