Acknowledgement

I am indebted to my supervisor, Prof. Akhtar Mahdi, a dynamic and hard-working personality in Persian world who helped me with his valuable suggestions, able guidance and personal support. My deep gratitude to Dr. Akhlaque Ahmed, for encouraging me to think and talk critically about any literary work and helping me immensely while I was writing my chapters with his valuable suggestions.

I would like to thank all the faculty members of Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, literature and Culture studies. I am also thankful to Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library for allowing me to study the original manuscripts of various Sufis of Bihar. The Staffs of JNU library are to be thanked for helping me find published material.

Today when I am going to submit my Ph.D. thesis, my heart goes on for all those people who had guided and supported me to reach to a stage such as this. It would not have been possible for a pampered child as me to have learnt even a single letter without the guidance of my parents, especially my mother Mushtari Khanam, who probably helped me spell out the first word of my life. My father, Janab Jabir Hussain Khan, despite being in a transferable job has always been there for me in all circumstances whether green or grey. The tremendous amount of love and affection received from my sisters, (Dulari, Pyaari and Pinki) and brothers (Guddan and Shadab) have always encouraged me to take up responsibilities which include education and hence if today I have been able to submit this thesis, there love, affection and care has definitely played a significant role. I would also like to thank my brother in Laws Ashraful Islam Khan, Iflikhair Ahmad Khan and Manzar Babu.

I can never forget Dr. F. I. khan who was the one to suggest me to opt for Persian language and literature for my higher studies. I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. Taskeen Azami for his unconditional support from my college days till date. I would also like to thank Khalid-Tarique brothers and Murshid Bhai JNU would not have been like a home for me if Dr. Shakeel Ahmad Khan and Dr. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan were not there to
welcome me in Delhi and pampered me in JNU to make me feel totally at home.
My profound gratitude to my seniors and scholars Dr. Mazhar Alam Siddiqui, Dr. M. Waseem Raja (Asst. Professor in Deptt of History, AMU) and Dr. Gholam Omar.

Kamaal Bhai, wherever you are, your spirit will always guide me in every juncture of my life and today I am missing you the most because you laid the foundation of my Ph.D. work.

Words can not express how grateful I m feeling for my dear friend Dr. Jawaid Akhtar and his father Professor Idd Mohammad Ansari (Head of the Deptt of Persian, B.R.A. Ambedkar University, Muzaffapur), without whom I could have never compiled this work.

Special thanks to Shabbir, who always stood up by me in whatever support I needed, be it academic, social and emotional.

I would like to mention everlasting support of my friends specially in JNU Khalid Akhtar, Tabir Kalam, Mr. and Mrs. Saif, Tarique, Nasir, Faheem, Rashid, Nidhi, Shamim Bhai, Aaftab & Deepa, Rupa, Faizan and others who tamed me learning the etiquettes of social behaviour.

Last but not the least, it is you Dear Valentina, who made this work happen. It began with you and now that it has got a shape, it is all because of you. I feel overwhelmed and indebted for your unconditional love and support.

YASEER ARSALAN KHAN