PREFACE

The Futuhat Namah-i-Samadi written by Ghulam Muhy-ud-Din was completed in (1722-23 A.D.). Its only extant manuscript is available at the British Museum, London. Storey’s information about this manuscript being a contemporary account, an eye-witness and consisting of 174 pages aroused my interest. On the internet I got the information from the British Museum about how I can procure it. Then I have obtained it from India Office Library, British Museum, London. On reading the text I found I was watching on the screen an interesting film on the subject. I proposed to Dr. Raghubir Singh for doing Ph.D. on the critical editing of this Persian text for making it available to the scholars at large.

The manuscript has 174 folios. Each folio has 15 lines and each line has about 12 to 13 words. I found that it was a very useful work on Nawab Abdus Samad Khan’s campaigns against the rebels in the Punjab and Kashmir. A chapter on the Mughal Nobility, its character and functioning is also very informative and interesting.

The editing of the text posed certain formidable difficulties. The language of the text is turgid. The sentences are long and unpunctuated. The author was admittedly a great scholar of Persian. In order to make the text readable a frequent recourse to a good Persian Dictionary was indispensable. I punctuated the sentences, making extensive use of izafat expressed by joining Kasrah to the governing noun. Such dots as were omitted by the scribe were provided at proper places. A glossary of difficult words has been added which increases the readability of the text. The reign of Farrukhsiyar was brief but
it produced monumental works on the current topics. A bibliography of such and other related works has been given. Maps and a Genealogical table have been given. Table of contents of the Persian Text has also been prepared. The text makes a mention of a few names of persons and places. Explanatory notes on a few of them have also been given.

Important information about the text has been given in the chapters in the Introduction. The historical background to the events described in the text has been examined. Importance of the facts culled from the Persian Text has been related under different heads in the Introduction. Footnotes have been provided in serial order under the heading Notes and References at the end of the Persian Text. I have avoided giving the Footnotes at the bottom of each folio as that would have disturbed the author’s pattern of writing. I have maintained the author’s pattern in tact. I have not interfered with the original text. Its sanctity has been preserved.

I have tried to present the Persian Text in a readable form. The Introduction in English adds to its utility and legibility. All this could be achieved only with expert, talented, sympathetic and consistent guidance of my Supervisor Dr. Raghubir Singh. Inspite of his multifarious responsibilities, I always found him eager and anxious to give me proper direction whenever I required it. A simple nod and a spontaneous one sentence from him was enough for me to change the direction of my work on the desired lines. Dr. Rai Jasbir Singh of the Guru Nanak Studies Department also extended his esteemed cooperation and made suggestions helpful for doing research. Dr. Sukhwant Singh, Head of Department of History and Dr. Sulakhan Singh of the same Department always gave me encouragement to take up and pursue with this onerous task of editing a
Persian Manuscript. I am very indebted to all the renowned Scholars of the Department of History at the Guru Nanak Dev University. I had to frequently consult Dr. Barkat Ali and Dr Aziz Abbas of the Department of Persian. They always helped me in my work. I owe my thanks to the Librarian of Bhai Gurdas Library for providing me help in this research. I also owe my gratitude to a number of individuals and institutions. I am thankful to the incharge, Sikh Reference Library, Golden Temple, Amritsar; the Director of the Punjab State Archives, Patiala and Chandigarh. I am indebted to these individuals and institutions for their cooperation. I must acknowledge my sincere debts to the University authorities who readily accepted my proposal to do the research on the topic.

Lastly, again I put on record my deep reverence and thanks to my guide and my entire family who always encouraged me to go ahead with the work on the project.

(Supreet Kaur)