PREFACE

This doctoral work is a study of the religious ideological social, cultural and political factors that were involved in bringing about the political and cultural revolution which changed the very face of the human society.

No doubt this is the work of one man the Arabian prophet (P.B.U.H) who preached the worship of one God to a nation of idolaters. He had a mysterious fascination in his personal influence and within a period of twenty three years of his preaching he was master of the united Arabs who had embraced Islam. They were all trained to carry on his work after his death who started spreading over the neighbouring land. It was in the beginning of the eighth century that they had reached the African shore. They carried with them the code of Islamic conduct the sacred book of God Al - Quran which changed the very face of the human society.

This is the miracle of the Quran which is the first prose book of Arabic language and literature. The subject of my study relates to the development of Arabic literary prose during the first two centuries of the Abbasid rule, which is the period of the different cultures coming together under the Quranic influence, while concentrating my attention on the investigation of the literary aspect of the developments during this period I had also to study the factors that were working in shaping the new trends in the art of Arabic prose writing. In order to trace the origin of the Arabic literary prose and its gradual development I had to start my study from the pre-Islamic period. For that purpose I waded through a vast literature and this study could not have been written without the works of the predecessors who are many. Among the modern writers are Dr. Shauqi Daif, Dr. Mustafa Al-Rafai and many others whose contribution on the
subject is most valuable. My debt to them will be apparent to the readers on every page.

I may mention here that I also benefited from the informal talk I had with the other learned individuals. It will be an act of ingratitude if I do not acknowledge the main help that I received from my teacher and supervisor without whose guidance the work could never have been done.

Inspite of all that I have said about my own efforts in my task I am fully conscious of my limitations as a research scholar and it will be an act of ungratefulness on my part if I do not gratefully admit how much I depended on the labour of my teacher and my guide in completing my work. This doctoral work is in fact the result of the scholarly guidance, generous encouragement and above all the inspiring personality of my respected teacher, my guide and my benefactor Prof. Abdul Bari, Chairman, Department of Arabic, Aligarh Muslim University at whose feet I had the honour to sit for completing this work. I owe him heartfelt gratitude and thanks which I gratefully acknowledge. I am also indebted to my respected teacher Prof. M.A. Rashid who encouraged me to select this subject and helped me in many ways. I owe him thanks which I respectfully acknowledge. My thanks are also due to my respected teachers Dr. Kafil Ahmad, Dr. Zuhural Haque Dr. Salahuddin Umri, Dr. Alvi, Dr. Rafiq Qasmi, Dr. Tauqueer Alam and others from whom I received a wealth of advice and suggestions. I gratefully thank them all. I also thank my many friends for their good wishes and interest in my task. I shall fail in my duty if I do not remember and mention here my guardian at Aligarh Janab Dr. and Mrs Iariq Farooq with whom I had the privilege and honour of living for several years at Aligarh who treated me as their son. I also remember their sons Mr faisal, Mr Fraz and Mr Yusuf, whose living memory I cherish. I do not find words to thank this wonderful family who helped me
and are still helping in many ways. To them I owe heavy debt of gratitude which I acknowledge gratefully and say, 'A heartfelt thank you to you all.'

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