INTRODUCTION

"A Critical Edition of the Odes of Jamali of Delhi"
(Excluding Ghazals)

Jamali was an important and literary figure of the 9th and the 10th centuries A.D. He was of an Indian stock and his poetic genius and scholarship have their roots in Indian soil. So being truly an Indian-Persian poet he was a real exponent of Indian style, generally known as Sabk-i-Hindi.

He belonged to a very important period of the Indian History. It was in his life-time that the powerful Lodi dynasty was established and he himself along with the other members of his family enjoyed all the benefits of a strong monarchy under Sikandar Lodi. He also saw with his own eyes the fall of the Afghans in India who had contributed to the development of a particular Indo-Afghan culture. He was also a witness to the rise of the Moghal power in India and naturally his Diwan bears testimony to all these facts. He wrote encomiums for Sikandar Lodi as well as he sung sky-high praises for his opponents, Babur and Humayun.

Jamali was a reputed Sufi, devoted to Sufism, undertook long journeys and voyages in search of saints and shrines, sang praises for his saint Samaud-Din, took pride in performing his services, became a part and parcel of Sikandar Lodi's life and exercised a proverbial influence on the Moghal royalty.
He was a poet and scholar of high order, composed a Diwan, some mathnavis and wrote a memoir of Sufis called Siyarul Arfin. Only the last mentioned prose work has been published while the rest in still in the form of manuscripts, not easily accessible to the scholars.

Notwithstanding all this importance no special research has been done on the poet; even the real name of the poet has been a point of dispute among the historians and biographers.

The historical and literary importance of Jamali and his conflicting character attracted me to undertake a thorough research on his life and to edit certain forms of his poetry so I chose:


Having transcribed the poems from the Diwan of the Azad library, A.M.U. Aligarh. I collated with another copy and a Tarji band (Tarji band) from a third copy called Zamimeh (Zamimeh) available there only, and with the fourth copy preserved in the Riza Library of Rampur.

In the text I had to do not only the ordinary editing work but also had to present correct contexts of the quran and Hadith referred to every now and then by the poet which had been dealt wrongly by the famous scholars of Iran including Sadi of Shiraz.

I had also to shed the sweat of my brow for the preparation of the preface, not only to compensate for the negligence of the historians and biographers contemporary to the poet but also to refute the wrong assertions of the later scholars who gave publicity to cock and bull stories concerning poet's life and ascribed other Jamali's works to this Jamali of Delhi.
But credit for the success I would like to share with Dr. Nazir Ahmad, the Head of the Persian Department for his frequent advice, ever encouraging attitude and help in providing required material and financial assistance through scholarship, travel and typing grants and Dr. (Mrs) Ummihani Fakhruzamman under whose able and scholarly guidance coupled with motherly affection I was in a position to carry on the work in greatest ease and comfort. I must also express my feeling of gratitude to Mr. Imtiaz Ali Khan Arshi, the renowned scholar and Librarian in Riza Library of Rampur who has been a regular help to me in giving access to the material available in his library and Professor Syed Hasan of Patna who also gave me a helping hand in providing material from the Rankipur Library.