It is quite an uncommon coincidence that by profession I am a physician and by taste a Master of Arts. The relations between the classical oriental languages and the Greco-Arabian Medicine and the influence they exercised on each other is quite evident and needs no comment. Though famous works on medicine in Arabic language are still in circulation, yet the Persian Medical books are highly popular in our country and commonly taught in the Tibbī Institutions of modern India. Even the prescriptions in daily medical practice are written in Persian and the Persian names of the Drugs are usually spoken.

This is also a caustic fact that the Greco-Arabian system of Medicine has practically vanished in the countries where it was brought into existence and nurtured for centuries. On the other-hand in India that system was liberally patronized for more than four hundred years and is still widely practised through-out the length and breadth of the country.
Right from the onset of Muslim rule in India Persian language had gained propagation and was the most accepted media for the scholarly works of literature and sciences. This had been a constant impetus to me for the exploration of the works of the Physicians who flourished in India, more particularly those who were attached to the courts. When there is a will there is a way and this maxim applied in my case also.

When my intentions were disclosed to Professor Nazir Ahmad, he suggested me that I should undertake to work on the life and works of 'Yusuf bin Muhammed-Yusufi', who came to India during the reign of Babur and served him as a court-physician and who was equally patronized by his successor Humayun under whom he also served as physician and as a poet until his death.

I agreed to the proposal and started my work after the topic was finally approved by the appropriate bodies of the University. As the material was scattered and mostly in manuscript form I had to visit various libraries and consult the necessary books. It took me three years to complete the work which is submitted for the award of
Ph.D degree in Persian. Of course, I could not personally visit all the libraries in India, but the necessary material were made available to me obtained some how or other. However, I personally visited the Government Oriental Manuscript Library, Madras where the unique copy of the Qasāid of Yūsufī is preserved. This manuscript was discovered only at the last stage and so I had to hurry to Madras and personally studied it carefully. The discovery of the manuscript and the information available in it is a definite contribution to our knowledge of the subject.

During the course of my research, I had to settle a number of problems and it is gratifying that most of them have been settled quite satisfactorily. For example, the lineage of Yūsufī, his parentage, the question of the personality of Yūsufī, the tabib and that of Yūsufī, the Munshi and lastly Yūsufī the poet.

I have all through tried to make an objective, study of the author. At places where I could not agree with Yūsufī's views, I differed with him and have pointed out
his short-comings. For example some of his treatises are of hackneyed nature and are devoid of originality. I have not associated myself with the views of the author expressed in them. He has been claimed as the first class Persian poet but so long as the specimens were meagre I could not subscribe to the general opinion. However, on the availability of the copy of the Dīwān I had to revise my opinion. I have tried my utmost to present the author in his true perspective but I am fully conscious of my own limitations and short comings. So, while making an appraisal, I hope this fact would be borne in mind.

During the course of my research Professor Nazīr Ahmad has been a source of constant help to me. Had he not made me aware of the existence of Yūsufī's Dīwān of ḡasāid in Madrās Oriental Library, I would have lost the most important work of the person under review. I humbly express my gratitude to him for the help and kind advice he extended to me.

I also express my thanks to the staff of Maulāna Āzād Library, 'Alīgarh Muslim University, 'Alīgarh
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