Summary
Editing of the "Diwan" of Sanaullah Khan "Firaq" Dehlvi
with a short introduction and notes

Sanaullah Khan "Firaq" Dehlvi, a poet of the golden period of Urdu literature, i.e. the 19th century, had been quite popular in his time and thereafter, but with the dawn of 20th century his fame suffered and eclipsed. This strange phenomenon stimulated my curiosity to explore the significance of his accomplishments.

In the course of my study of this poet, I discovered that many of his distinguished and important poetic works were lying unannotated, because no collection of his poetic work has ever been published. I made-up my mind to edit his "Diwan" with a short introduction and annotations.

My present thesis is designed to fill up this lacuna of the history of Urdu literature. I have divided it into two parts, the first dealing with his life history in brief along with a short
introduction, and the other comprising the text of his “Diwan” with foot notes indicating variations of manuscripts, meanings of difficult words, and phrases, corrections of spellings and stanzas written inadvertently wrong, by the calligrapher.

It would be an ample reward of my labours if the hidden treasure of the poetic works of “Firaq Dehlvi” comes light bringing into focus the style and temper of the poetry of the age and the poet’s own contribution to the literature of the time.

**Ancestry and Life History in Short**

According to the available sources, Sanaullah Khan “Firaq” who was born at Delhi probably in the year 1174 A.H. and died in 1246 A.H. at the same place. He belonged to a “Afghan Family”. His uncle, Hidayatulla Khan “Hidayat” was a famous poet of the age. By occupation, Firaq was a famous physician and learned the Unani System of medicine from Qudratulla Qasim, a renowned poet, writer and physician. “Firaq” had only one son, Nasrullah Khan “Vesal”, by name. He too was a poet. “Firaq” was one of the chief pupils of Khwaja Mir “Dard”, the most renowned and greatest poet of his age.

“Firaq” was regarded a respectable person in the society and held a place in the Moghal Court.
Besides more than five hundred "Ghazals" "Firaq" left many poems, salams (سم), tarikh-i-qatlat (تاریخی قتلات) and rabaiyat (رباییات).

The printing press had not come into vogue till then and the few copies that were made of the poetic collections were soon forgotten. "Firaq" was, however, important enough to earn a mention in most Tazkirahs and the few couplets that were selected convinced people of his stature in poetry. If he could not be adjudged properly it was primarily because of the inaccessibility to his poetic works in the various genre. This present work fulfils the need.

My thesis is not the final work on "Firaq" but marks just a beginning. It would serve as a leading mile stone for the future scholars, who could certainly study the various aspects of his contribution in greater details.

Sincerely,

(Syed Ali Bagar Zaidi)

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