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**Title of the Thesis: “Bihar Ke Firdausi Silsile Ka Brihad Itihas
(14th Century – 17th Century)”**

ABSTRACT

The present study is aimed at writing the history of Firdausi order in Bihar. Since most of the works on Firdausi Sufis are confined to the history of life and works of one of greatest Sufis of the fourteenth century Shaikh Sharfuddin Yahya Maneri, here an attempt is made to trace the contribution of his successors in the subsequent period, roughly up to the end of the seventeenth century.

The introductory chapter of the thesis covers a long period of history of the growth and development of the Sufi tradition in the Islamic world. Initial history of the Firdausi order and its arrival in India is also an integral part of the discussion here.

The chapter which follows the early history of Sufism, deals with the arrival of the Firdausis in Bihar. Also the historical, social and political scenario in Bihar at the time of the introduction of the said order there is duly taken into account to understand why the region attracted these Sufis there.

The most important aspect of the present study is the philosophy and teachings of the Firdausis in India, especially in Bihar. Here it becomes essential to know why and how they achieved great success in the region of Bihar where most of the shrines of Firdausis are located.

Firdausi Sufis also added much to the genre of malfuzat literature in the last many centuries. These works on the life and achievement of the Firdausis in India are valued greatly by the modern scholars as they depict the contemporary society in its actual form. These sources are a treasure-trove of information about the polity and political developments in the region of Bihar and Bengal as well. Rulers belonging to different dynasties maintained cordial relations with the Firdausi Sufis in Bihar. In turn, these Sufis often influenced the local rulers and nobles in policy matters. Their political role is also a subject of discussion here.

Lastly, it can be said that Firdausi Sufis not only left an indelible mark in the history of tasawwuf in India but also influenced the contemporary society a lot. Their impact is visible in their popularity even today when innumerable people visit their hospices (khanqahs) throughout the year.