

Name of scholar: Zaibun Nisa

Name of supervisor: Prof. Mohammad Iqbal

Department: Persian

Title of Thesis: A Study of Persian Prose Works Produced During the Tughlaq Period

The invasion of India by Mahmud of Ghazni, though mainly a military movement, was not without its cultural importance in so far as it served to introduce Persian language and literature in India. It was during his time that Abu Rayhan Muhammad al-Biruni, came to India and made himself acquainted with Hindu learning. Persian language and literature has developed stage by stage in India. Under the Ghorid rulers Persian language and literature thrived well. Taj-ud-Din Hasan, Rukn-ud-Din Hamza, Shihab-ud-Din Muhammad Rashid and Qazi Hamid were among few eminent poets and literati who shed luster on the court of Muhammad Ghuri. The liberality of Qutb-ud-Din, the Slave ruler, to the poets earned him the title of Lak-baksh (the giver of lacs). Qutb-ud-Din's successor, Iltutmish attracted to his court the poets and writers of eminence like Khwaja Abu Nasr, Abu Bakr bin Muahammad Ruhani Samarqandi and Atj-ud-Din Dabir. Even the court of Nasir-ud-Din Mahmud Shah was graced by the panegyrist Fakhr-ud-Din and the historian Minhaj-us-Shiraj. The reign of the Sultans like Ghiyas-ud-Balban and Muiz-ud-Din Kaiqubad as well as the period covered by the Khilji rule marked by a new epoch in the history of Persian literature in India. It was during their ruler that eminent poet writer Amir Khusrau flourished.

The Tughlaq kings ruled in India from A.H.720/A.D.1320 to A.H.815/A.D.1413. Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq dynasty ruled for a short period of four years and devoted much of his time to rehabilitate the prestige of the Empire, which had been shaken by the disturbances and disorders. But Muhammad bin Tughlaq, the successor and the son of Ghiyas-ud-Din Tughlaq, was, however one of the most erudite sovereigns that ever sat upon throne of Delhi. He was an educated person and a king with good taste of literature. He maintained a standard of education and created a literary environment in his court. A number of learned men were present in his court. He was fond of history and remembered so many historical incidents by heart. Attracted by the reputation of Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq's love for the company of the learned men, scholars came from different foreign lands to join his service. Muhammad bin Tughlaq had done so many works for the progress and enrichment of Persian language and literature.

The successor and cousin of Muhammad bin Tughlaq was also a great patron of learning. In the history of Delhi Sultanate, the age of Firoz Shah Tughlaq was the most prolific in historical and religious literature. There were so many scholars, learned men, poets, historians flourished in his court. Many books were translated from Sanskrit to Persian during his reign. Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi, Fatawa-i-Tatar Khani, Fiqh-i-Firoz Shahi, Fawaid-i-Firoz Shahi, Fatawa-i-Jahandari were great works produced during Firoz Shah's reign. These were the milestone of Persian literature. Firoz Shah himself left behind him the Futuhat-i-Firoz Shahi. The above mentioned books has shown the educational activities and religious atmosphere during his reign and how he governed the people and helped them.