
The valuable services rendered by the Sufis in the dissemination of Islamic teachings in the four corners of the world, particularly in the Indo-Pak sub-continent can hardly be overemphasized. We the people of this region specially should bow our heads in extreme veneration to those sages who have upheld the standards of Islamic principles of universal brotherhood and equality of mankind even in the stormy periods of religious fanaticism and dogmatism. Their teachings had an unprecedented appeal for the caste-ridden people of this sub-continent, who were persuaded to enter the fold of Islam in large numbers as a result of the indefatigable efforts of these selfless servants of Islam. It is, however, most unfortunate that so far very little has been done by us towards carrying out research on the works of such great mystic missionaries of Islam.

The small book (of about 65 pages) under review is about the life and works of one of the devoted servants of Islam, Mir Saiyid [sayyid] Ali Hamadani (1314—1385 A.D.) who by dint of his sincere efforts changed the spiritual and intellectual history of Kashmir, and enlightened the dark corridors of the hearts of its people with the Light of Islam. This work has, thus, served as a pointer to a long-felt need of research on the life and works of the great mystics of Islam, particularly those relating to this sub-continent.

Inspite of the scanty information available about the saint and the limited access to the material on him, the young author has taken pains in collecting necessary information about the life and works of the Saiyid, and has tried to produce the material in an unbiased manner. As pointed out by Prof. Shaykh Abdul Rashid in his Foreword on the book, the author had unfortunately no opportunity of studying the material available in the Libraries of India, where it is found in a greater bulk, but in spite of such limitations with which a Pakistani author is beset in the present day circumstances, the author has made the maximum possible use of the material available on the saint in this country.

Sayyid Hamadani, the great Sufi, is said to have written about 170 books, of which about 50 are still extant. The best known works of the saint are: Dhakhirat al Mutūk, translation of Ibn-al-'Arabi's Faṣūṣ al-Ḥikam, a treatise entitled Wuǧūdiyyah and a very important work entitled: Risāla-i-Futuwwah, which embodies the sum-total of his philosophy.
The present work may serve as an introduction to the life and work of the master, and it is hoped it will induce others to embark on an extensive research on the spiritual and intellectual services of the sage, and a more detailed study of the mystic's philosophy particularly contained in his *Risāla-i-Futuwwah*.

The present work, in spite of its brevity, is commendable in so far as it has at least thrown some light on the valuable services rendered by the great mystic for the propagation of the message of Islam in the now-overwhelmingly Muslim territory of Kashmir. The author has devoted himself more to the historical side than to the spiritual and intellectual sides of the subject. However, he has added four Appendices at the end of the book. Appendix I mentions the forty steps described in Saiyid Hāmadāni’s *Risālah Chihl Maqām-i-Ṣūfīyya*. Appendix II deals with *Iḥtisasb*, its various kinds, functions and importance as given in the Saiyid’s book: *Dhakhirat al Muḥūk*. Appendix III gives the exigencies under which God the Almighty bestowed kingship upon Ādam, described by the Saiyid in Chapter V of the same book, and Appendix IV contains the Sayings of the Saiyid collected by the author from earlier scholars in his *Minhāj al-ʿĀrifīn*.

In short, the author and the publisher both deserve our commendation for introducing one of the leading Ṣūfīs of Islam and throwing some light on the services rendered by him for the propagation of this faith in a very important part of this sub-continent. We hope that this work will serve as an inducement for others to take up a more detailed study on the Saiyid and rather usher in an era of an extensive research on the life and works of all the great Ṣūfīs of this sub-continent.

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