

Hazrat Khwaja Abul Hassan Amir Khusro (R.A.)

The Parrot of India: Master of Sufi Poetry and Music

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Preface

This eBook, presented by Barkateraza.in, chronicles the life, literary contributions, and spiritual legacy of Hazrat Khwaja Abul Hassan Amir Khusro (R.A.), revered as the "Parrot of India" and a pioneer of Urdu and Hindustani literature. A devoted disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (R.A.), his poetry, music, and Sufi teachings bridged cultural divides, fostering unity between Hindus and Muslims. His shrine in Delhi, near his mentor's, continues to inspire devotees during his Urs on 17 Shawwal.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Hazrat Khwaja Abul Hassan Amir Khusro (651–725 A.H./1253–1325 A.D.), titled Mehboob-e-Illahi, Shirin Sokhan, Tuti-e-Hind, and Yamin-ud-Deen, was a Sufi poet, musician, scholar, and disciple of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya (R.A.). Born in Patiali, India, he laid the foundation of Urdu by blending Persian with Braj Bhasha. A pioneer of Indian classical music and the sitar, his works and devotion to his mentor left an indelible mark on India’s cultural and spiritual heritage.

Chapter 2

Lineage and Family

Born to Amir Saifuddin Mahmood, a Turk from the Lachin tribe near Samarkand, and Bibi Daulat Naz, daughter of Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk (Rawat Arz), a Rajput, Hazrat Amir Khusro was a Hindustani Turk. His family migrated to Delhi during Genghis Khan's invasion, welcomed by Sultan Shamsuddin Iltutmish. His father, a military commander, was granted a fief in Patiali, where Khusro was born in 651 A.H. (1253 A.D.). He had one son, Malik Muhammad, and one daughter, Afeefa.

Chapter 3

Birth and Early Life

Born in Patiali, Uttar Pradesh, in 651 A.H. (1253 A.D.), Hazrat Amir Khusro displayed prodigious talent, composing poetry at age eight. After his father's martyrdom in 660 A.H. (1260 A.D.), he moved to Delhi with his mother, raised by his maternal grandfather, Imad-ul-Mulk. His early exposure to his father's bravery and scholarly environment shaped his intellectual and spiritual growth.

Chapter 4

Education

Hazrat Amir Khusro mastered Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi, Awadhi, and Sanskrit. After his father's death, his maternal grandfather and brothers oversaw his education. By age 16, he became a scholar of philosophy and science, guided by Mufti Moizuddin Gharifi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. His intellectual prowess and poetic talent earned him recognition in the courts of Delhi's sultans.

Chapter 5

Spiritual Journey

At age eight, Hazrat Amir Khusro met Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, choosing him as his spiritual mentor through a poetic exchange at his khanqah. Becoming his mureed, Khusro's devotion was profound; he once traded his wealth for his mentor's shoes. He observed Tahajjud prayers, recited seven juz of the Quran nightly, and fasted year-round (except the five forbidden days). His Sufi teachings emphasized divine love, unity, and the omnipresence of God, as reflected in his poetry.

Chapter 6

Literary Contributions

Hazrat Amir Khusro authored numerous works, blending Persian and Hindi to create Urdu. His notable works include:

1. Tuhfat-us-Sighr (1271 A.D.)
2. Wast-ul-Hayat
3. Ghurratul-Kamaal
4. Baqia-Naqia
5. Qissa Chahar Darvesh
6. Nihaayatul-Kamaal
7. Qiraan-us-Sa'dain (1289)
8. Miftah-ul-Futooh (1291)
9. Ishqia (1316)
10. Noh Sepehr Mathnavi (1318)
11. Taarikh-e-Alai
12. Tughluq Nama (1320)
13. Khamsa-e-Nizaami
14. Ejaaz-e-Khusrovi
15. Khaza'in-ul-Futooh
16. Afzal-ul-Fawa'id
17. Khaaliq Baari
18. Jawaahar-e-Khusrowi

His famous verse on Kashmir, “Agar firdaus bar roo-e-zameen ast, Hameen ast o hameen ast o hameen ast,” celebrates India’s beauty.

Chapter 7

Musical Innovations

Hazrat Amir Khusro pioneered Indian classical music, inventing the sitar and blending Persian and Indian musical traditions. His compositions laid the foundation for qawwali, a devotional Sufi music form. His multilingual poetry, combining Persian, Hindi, and other regional languages, enriched India's cultural heritage, fostering unity through art.

Chapter 8

Role in Delhi Sultanate

Hazrat Amir Khusro served seven sultans of the Khilji and Tughluq dynasties, including Sultan Balban's nephew, Malik Chhajju, who appointed him court poet in 670 A.H. (1272 A.D.). Captured during a Mongol invasion in 683 A.H. (1285 A.D.), he escaped, showcasing resilience. His poetry chronicled historical events, such as Ala-ud-Din Khilji's victories, blending patriotism with spiritual insight.

Chapter 9

Devotion to Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya

Hazrat Amir Khusro's bond with Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya was profound. Declared by his mentor as "our Khusro," he was considered an inseparable companion. His act of exchanging his wealth for his mentor's shoes exemplifies his devotion. After Nizamuddin's passing on 18 Rabi-us-Sani 725 A.H. (3 April 1325 A.D.), Khusro, grief-stricken, distributed his wealth to the poor and passed away six months later.

Chapter 10

Legacy and Mausoleum

Hazrat Amir Khusro passed away on 18 Shawwal 725 A.H. (September 1325 A.D.) in Delhi, where his shrine, near Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya's, is a spiritual hub. His Urs on 17 Shawwal draws devotees, celebrating his contributions to Urdu, Hindustani literature, and music. His teachings of love, unity, and patriotism continue to inspire across communities.

Chapter 11

Delhi: The City

Delhi, the birthplace of Urdu, nurtured Hazrat Amir Khusro's legacy. As the capital of the Delhi Sultanate, it was a cultural and political hub where Khusro's poetry and music flourished. Home to his shrine and that of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, Delhi remains a center of Sufi heritage, attracting pilgrims and scholars.

Multimedia References

1. [Life of Hazrat Amir Khusro](#)
2. [Teachings and Poetry of Amir Khusro](#)

Bibliography

1. Tazkira-e-Amir Khusro by Traditional Sources.
2. Sufi Saints of India by Local Historians.
3. History of Delhi Sultanate by Regional Scholars.
4. Oral Traditions of Delhi and Patiali.

Closing Prayer

May Allah, through the blessings of His Beloved Prophet (PBUH), Hazrat Khwaja Abul Hassan Amir Khusro, the Ahl-e-Bait, and all Awliya Allah, grant us complete love for the Prophet, protect our faith, inspire righteous deeds, and fulfill our noble desires in this world and the hereafter. Ameen.