

A TEXT-BOOK OF
URDU PROSODY AND RHETORIC.

BY
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R. B. RAMSBOTHAM, Esq., M.B.E., M.A., B.Litt., F.R.H.S., I.E.S.,

A FELLOW OLD SALOPIAN AND SOMETIME
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مگر ملائکه بر آسمان وگرنه بشر
بعسن صورت او در زمی نخواهد بود
بدوستی که حرامست بعد از صحبت
که هیچ نطفه چو او آدمی نخواهد بود

The Gulistan.

PREFACE.

The chief difficulty which besets the compiler of a text book on Urdu prosody and rhetoric is not a deficiency but, strangely enough a surplus of vernacular works on the subject. These works, while deriving a common origin from the original Arabic treatises on the sciences of prosody and rhetoric, now contain many widely divergent views brought into being by the passage of time since those original treatises were made and by the necessary amplification of the sciences to meet the requirements of modern Urdu poetry. This book is, at best, only an attempt to select what is accurate and well-expressed in these various works, to draw comparisons, wherever possible, with English prosody and to present the whole in a form better arranged and calculated to lead the student along a well-defined path to a thorough understanding of this intricate subject. It is hoped that the book may be of especial assistance to candidates working for the degree of Honour Examination in Urdu since, wherever possible, examples of the figures of speech and metres have been taken from the two verse text books for that examination, viz., the "Nazm-i-Muntakhab" and the "Kulliyat-i-Sauda."

I have made extensive, but I hope not unfair, use of the works of my predecessors and I must acknowledge my obligations to the authors of the following :—

"La Rhetorique et la Prosodie des langues de l'Orient Musulman" by M. Garcin de Tassy.

"Taqwim ul aruz wal qafia" by Ghulam Muhi ud Din.
"Jannat ul aruz was Sanaya" by Sheikh Barkat Ali.

“Naqsha Zaruriat-i-Sha’iri” by Hakim Saiyid Muhammed Mehdi, and in particular to the inspiring tuition and most scholarly treatises of my former teacher Maulvi Abdul Raof Sahib “Ishrat” of Lucknow.

I am also indebted to Maulvi Muzaffar Hamid Faruqi for his constant help in preparing the Urdu MSS. portion for the press, and to Mr. Brij Kishore of Patiala for his assistance in compiling Appendix II and in correction of the proofs.

I shall be indebted to any one who will take the trouble to write and point out any typographical errors he may come across for these, in a work of this description, often escape detection even after several revisions.

KASAUJI,
1924.

G. D. PYBUS.

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PART I.

PROSODY.