

# Some Cultural Aspects of Muslim Rule in India

BY

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*etc.*

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TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
**SIR GEORGE CUNNINGHAM**  
K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.  
GOVERNOR  
OF  
The North-West Frontier Province  
this  
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with  
profound respect

## PREFACE

The enduring contributions of Islam to the cultural heritage of India and the constructive work done by Muslim Kings in this country are subjects seldom spoken of and rarely referred to in the existing historical literature on the Muslim Period of Indian history. Unfortunately enough, "*The Cultural Heritage of India*", recently published in three bulky volumes, dealing with almost every phase of Hindu life and thought and incorporating the contributions of over one hundred Hindu scholars, contains but one small chapter on '*Islamic Culture*', written by a Muslim writer. The worst of all is that no Muslim statesman or scholar has seriously turned his attention towards this subject. Of late, the demand for the preservation of Islamic culture has been great, but no organized literary effort has so far been launched to achieve the object. The natural result is that both Islam and Muslim Rule in India have been grossly misrepresented. The need for a cultural history of Muslim India has never been so urgent as in these days, and it was to fill this long-felt want—a want which would have been very aptly filled if "*The Cultural Heritage of India*" had been compiled on truly national lines—that I have ventured to put before the public the results of my researches that have long awaited publication.

I do confess that I have not been able to do full justice to the subjects dealt with in this book, but I must say that an undertaking to give within the compass of a small volume a complete panorama of Muslim Rule in India—its achievements in the arts of peace and its contributions to the cultural heritage of India—is impossible for one man, however gifted and competent, and that the task cannot be successfully accomplished without the collaboration of a number of specialists and the crystallization

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of their researches into a much bigger work. In the pages that await the reader, attention is focussed only on a few of the cultural aspects of Muslim Rule, *viz.*, the State, the Administrative System, Toleration Education, Fine Arts, Social Life, Religious Influences and Economic Development—aspects which to my mind appear to be sufficient to reveal the refined side of a rule or ruler. Pending compilation of the bigger work, for which this book is of course a poor substitute, I shall try to improve upon it in its subsequent editions, should they be called for. For the present, I shall deem myself amply rewarded if this effort proves useful to a certain extent and paves the way for further researches on the subject which is so interesting and instructive and yet so sadly neglected.

At the end I must acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude I owe to the contemporary chroniclers and modern writers whose works I have consulted in preparing this book, to the Hon'ble Mr. J. Almond, Bar-at-Law, I. C. S., Judicial Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province for kindly permitting me to publish it and to His Excellency Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K. C. I. E., O. B. E., I. C. S., Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, for graciously agreeing to the book being dedicated to him.

*Peshawar City,*  
*February, 1939.*

*S. M. Jaffar.*

### CORRIGENDA

Page 9 line 16 *for* parosal *read* parasol.

Page 168 line 2 *for* purificatoy *read* purificatory.

Page 175 line 5 *for* dresess *read* dresses.

Page 180 line 24 *for* danty *read* dainty.

Page 186 line 18 *for* most the *read* the most.

Page 208 line 25 *for* aproach *read* approach.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- A. M.*<sup>2</sup> ... *Aligarh Magazine, The* (Aligarh).
- B. I. S.* ... *Bibliotheca Indica Series* of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, (Calcutta).
- Elliot* ... *History of India as told by its own Historians* translated by Sir Henry Elliot and edited by Dowson.
- Ferishta* ... *Tārīkh-i-Ferishta*, translated by Briggs.
- H. S.* ... Hakluyt Society.
- I. G. I.* ... *Imperial Gazetteer of India, The*.
- J. A. S. B.* . *Journal of the (Royal) Asiatic Society of Bengal*, (Calcutta).
- J. R. A. S.* . *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland* (London).
- J. R. S. A.* ... *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, (London).
- Law* ... *Promotion of Learning in India* by N. N. Law.
- M. A. S. B.* ... *Memoirs of the (Royal) Asiatic Society of Bengal*, (Calcutta).
- M. U. J.* ... *Muslim University Journal*, (Aligarh).
- N. K. P.* ... Newal Kishor Press (Lucknow).
- P. A. S. B.* ... *Proceedings of the (Royal) Asiatic Society of Bengal* (Calcutta).