

TWO EMINENT PHYSICIANS (OF UNANI MEDICINE) DURING
SHAH JAHAN'S REIGN

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During Shah Jahan's reign Unani physicians were posted at different places besides Delhi, the capital. Hakeem Mir Muhammad Hashim was the superintendent of the royal hospital at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Hakeem Masih al-Zaman was posted at Surat. In Delhi, in the vicinity of the great Jama-i mosque, Shah Jahan had set up a big hospital and its staff included competent physicians. The hospital offered treatment free of charge. Hakeem Muhammad Daud, Hakeem Momnai, Hakeem Jamala Kashi, Hakeem Taqarrub Khan, Hakeem Amanallah Khan and Hakeem Nur al-Din Muhammad had acquired a great fame. However, Hakeem Amanallah Khan and Hakeem Nur al-Din Muhammad surpassed all of them.

HAKEEM AMANALLAH KHAN

Hakeem Amanallah Khan was the son of Jahangir's and later Shah Jahan's valorous commander, Mahabat Khan. Following are the titles of the books which this physician-author wrote or compiled:

Umm al-Ilaj
Ganj-i Badaward
Dastur al-Hunud
Siha al-Adwiya
Ishrah-i Kamila
Miftah al-Hudud.

Out of the above, only *Umm al-Ilaj* is found in print. It deals with the different forms of diarrhoea and their treatment.

Ganj-i Badaward

Ganj-i Badaward is the short name. The full title is *Ganj-i Badaward Sahib Qirani*. It is also known as *Qarabadin Khanzamani*. It is in Persian.

Ganj-i Badaward, though yet a manuscript, has given an eternal fame to its author who has in this monumental and voluminous work gathered together the tested prescriptions and practices of all the well-known Unani physicians, right from the inception of this system down to his own age. He has also given detailed descriptions of the single drugs either used as such or as constituents of compound medicines. The author has also noted his own observations on a number of prescriptions or formulations. In the preface he says:

“Though the Greek and Indian physicians have authored a large number of books which deal with medicine and pharmacy but in the present times when intellectual activities are considered activities of ignorance and when ignorance has relegated knowledge to a low status, I, Amanallah Khan Khan-i Zaman Feruz Jang, son of Mahabat Khan Khan Bahadur, Commander-in-Chief, motivated by my inquisitive nature and indomitable will decided to benefit from the legacy left by ancient physicians as well as from the experiences of the physicians of my own time and whatever knowledge I could thus gather I have compressed in my book. This book which is a compendium for the physicians could see the light of the day only because from God I received His profound help.”

As disclosed in the preface itself the author dedicated the book to Shah Jahan who was his benefactor.

Manuscripts of *Ganj-i Badaward* scribed at different times are available in the following libraries or institutions:

Raza Public Library, Rampur (U.P.)
 Asafia Library, Hyderabad
 Maulana Azad Library, Muslim University, Aligarh
 Kutab Khana-i Majlis, Tehran (Iran)
 Tehran University, Tehran (Iran)
 Maktaba-i Ilahiyat, Najaf Ashraf (Iraq)
 Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research, Tughlaqabad,
 New Delhi

The present study of *Ganj-i Badaward* is based on the manuscript (MMS No. 7816-7) preserved in the Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research, Tughlaqabad, New Delhi. It is a voluminous treatise divided into a prolegomena, three parts and an epilogue, and has 780 folios. The prolegomena contains a list of 105 books whose material the author professes to have used in compiling his own work. He has not classified these books according to languages nor has he arranged them periodwise. Prof. S. A. W. Zahuri, formerly Principal of the Nizamia Tibbia College, Hyderabad, has with great effort, classified these 105 books, the source material of *Ganj-i Badaward*. Based on Prof. Zahuri's classification following are the important works:

In Arabic

Kunash Yuhanna bin Saraftun
Ikhtiyarat-i Hunain
Hawi-i Kabir (Muhammad bin Zakaria Razi)
Al-Mansuri (" ")
Bara al-Saata (" ")
Kamil al-Sanai (Ali bin Abbas Majusi)
Kulli Masihi (Abu Sahal Masihi)
Qanun fil-tib (Ibn Sina)
Hawi-i Saghir (Ilyas Shirazi)
Sharh Asbab wa Alamat (Mulla Nafis Kirmani)
Sudidi-Sharh Mujiz (Sadeed al-Din Kazruni)
Aqsarai-Sharh Mujiz (Jamal al-Din Aqsarai)

In Persian

Zakhira Khawarazm Shahi (Ismail Jurjani)
Aghraz Alai (" ")
Tib-i Jalali
Ikhtiyarat-i Badii (Zain al-Din Ansari)
Ikhtiyarat-i Hakeem Amani
Tib-i Askandari
Dastur al-Ilaj
Risala Awzan (Mir Muhammad Mumin Astarabadi)
Tib-i Shams al-Din Mahmud Kabli
Jawahar Namah
Risala Chob Chini (Hakeem Imad al-Din Mahmud)
 „ *Atishak* (" ")
 „ *Badzahar* (" ")
 „ *Shinakht Momiai* (" ")
 „ *Afyun* (" ")
Rahat al-Insan
Riyaz al-Adwiya
Tib al-Hayat (Hakeem Haidar Ali)
Murakkabat wa Tajarib (" ")
Mohit al-Uloom (" ")
Kifaya Mansuri
Majmua-i Shamsi
Khulasa tashrih al-Abdan
Tib-i Firuz Shahi
Shifa al-amraz
Tib-i Shifa Khani (Shahab ibn Abd-al Karim)
Ain al-Hayat
Kitab-i Hikmat

Khulasa al-Tajarib (Mir Baha al-Daula Noor Bakhshi)
Alfaz al-Adwiya (Noor al-Din Muhammad)
Muntakhib al-Tajarib (" ")
Murakkabat Hakeem Jamala
Mujarrabat Hakeem Saadallah Gilani
Mujarrabat Hakeem Kamal al-Din Husain Shirazi
Israr-i Qasmi
Miftah al-Khazain

Vedic books

Suśruta Saṃhitā
Tib Bhoj Rāj
Tib Rāj Narand
Tib Jog Ratnāwali
Kāma Śāstra
Madana Vinoda

The list covering as many as 105 titles of books on medicine and allied subjects shows that all of them were extant in the time of Hakeem Amanallah Khan, though some of them now no longer exist.

Dastur al-Hunud

Dastur al-Hunud is another important medical compilation by Hakeem Amanallah Khan. By compiling this medical work the author made an effort to present Vedic medicine through the medium of Persian—the then court language. As he says in the preface of his *Ganj-i Badaward*, in this compilation, i.e. in *Ganj-i Badaward*, he incorporated portions of six Vedic medical books which came to his hand and which he names as *Suśruta Saṃhitā*, *Tib-i Bhoj Rāj*, *Tib-i Rāj Narand*, *Tib-i Jog Ratnāwali*, *Kāmaśāstra* and *Madana Vinoda*. About *Dastur al-Hunud* he claims that it is a Persian translation of the Vedic medical work *Madana Vinoda*. The famous Salar Jang Museum of Hyderabad possesses a manuscript of *Dastur al-Hunud*.

HAKEEM NUR AL-DIN MUHAMMAD

Humayun having been defeated by Sher Shah took refuge in the court of the Persian king Shah Tahmasp. It was with the help of Shah Tahmasp that Humayun regained his lost kingdom. Humayun and later his successors paid back this debt which they owed to Persia by their generous treatment of all those Persian scholars and physicians who had to quit their homes when frequent political crises and upheavals created chaotic conditions making their lives miserable and unsafe. Most of these scholars and physicians were given important positions. Having found peace in a hospitable country where opportunities for promotion and progress were unlimited they soon made their mark. Their mother tongue was

Persian which was also the court language of Mughal rulers. Thus their literary output had no difficulty in getting royal recognition. If their writings met the approval of kings or their courtiers they were suitably rewarded. These rewards, mostly monetary in nature, inspired many physicians to become physician-authors.

Hakeem Nur al-Din Muhammad was another physician besides Hakeem Amanallah Khan to attain distinction during the reign of Shah Jahan. He was the grandson of the famous physician Ain al-Mulk Shirazi who had come to India from Persia much earlier. Like Hakeem Amanallah Khan he also took to writing on medicine. His *Alfaz al-Adwiya* and *Ilajat-i Dara Shikohi*, both in Persian, are his two important contributions to Unani medicine. The former he wrote for Shah Jahan and the latter for Shah Jahan's son Dara Shikoh. *Alfaz al-Adwiya* gives a list of single drugs usually used in Unani medicine. It was printed at Calcutta in 1793 and is available in some libraries. In the introductory part of *Ganj-i Badaward* Hakeem Amanallah Khan has included in his list of 105 medical books *Muntakhab al-Tajarib* and mentioned Nur al-Din Muhammad as its author. However, it yet remains untraced. The most voluminous medical book by this Hakeem is *Ilajat-i Dara Shikohi* which has 1711 folios and whose one manuscript is available in Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris and another in Nizamia Tibbia College, Hyderabad. *Ilajat-i Dara Shikohi* is a medical encyclopaedia, containing the collective medical knowledge available upto the period of its author. An important feature of the book is that after stating the causes and symptoms under each disease, the author adds his personal experiences and views. The book is a mixture of Unani and Vedic medicines. Valuable material has been presented regarding hygiene, anatomy, diseases of children, principles of treatment, metallic ashes, alchemy, inductive passes and incantations.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atibba-i Ahd-i Mughliya, Hakeem Kausar Chandpuri, Karachi 1961.

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Physician-Authors of Greco-Arab Medicine in India, compiled and published by Institute of Medicine & Medical Research, Tughlaqabad, New Delhi. 1970.

Tarikh-i Tib (Urdu manuscript) by S. A. W. Zahuri, former Principal, Nizamia Tibbia College, Hyderabad, chapters on Unani Medicine during Mughal period.

Bibliography of important medical manuscripts (in Arabic and Persian) under preparation at the Institute of History of Medicine and Medical Research, Tughlaqabad, New Delhi.