A VALUABLE MANUSCRIPT OF THE FUTÜHÂT-AL MAKKÎYYA

A MONG the valuable manuscripts presented to the library of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, by His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, there is a copy of Muhî-ud-Dîn Ibnal 'Arabî's Futûhát-al-Makkîyya which contains, among others, the autograph-notes of 'Abdur Rahîm, Khân-Khânân (d. 1036 A.H./1626 A.D.), the Emperor Jahângîr (1014-37 A.H./1605-1628 A.D.), and Sayyid Muḥammad, the famous Ṣufi saint of Gujarât. (d. 1045 A.H./1635 A.D.).

The manuscript (size $11\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$; 8×5 ; 35 lines to a page) is divided into five volumes. It is written in a beautiful, minute Naskh and is slightly defective at the end. As the colophon which should probably have contained the name of the scribe and the date of the manuscript is missing, it is not possible to state definitely the exact date of its transcription, but it is perhaps safe to assert that it was copied towards the beginning of the

ninth century A.H.

It appears from the autograph-note of the Khân-Khànân ('Abdur Rahîm) that the manuscript was brought to him by one Mullà Ḥasan 'Ali Isfahanî and that it entered his library at Ahmadâbâd on the 7th Rabî'-uth-Thânî, 992, A.H. (1584 A.D.)

The note runs as follows:—

یرکتاب عالی جناب بتار نخ ہے۔ ربیع التا نی ۱۹۹ در دار الامان احمد آباد حمیت عن الشر و المساد ملاحسن علی ابتیاع نمو دم آور دو داخلکتب فغیر حقیرکثیر التقصیر عبدالرحیم ابن عمد ببرمحان عفی عنهماشد حامداً و مصلیاً ۔

Translation.—" Having purchased this valuable copy, Mullâ Hasan 'Alî of Isfahân brought it to me at Ahmadâbâd—may God protect it from evil and destruction—on the 7th Rabî-uth-Thâní, 992 (A.H.), and it entered the library of this poor, sinful faqır, 'Abdur Rahîm, son of Muḥammad Bairâm, may God pardon them both Praise (be to God) and blessings (on the Prophet.")

This note is followed by a seal of 'Abdur Rahim bearing the date 992, A.H. Probably he presented the manuscript to the Emperor Jahangir who, in his turn, presented it to Mir Sayyid Muhammad of Gujarat, in

الله اكبر ـ دروقتى كه نتيجة السادات مير جلال الدين مجد را از دار الحلا فأ آگره بخدمت و الله اكبر ـ دروقتى كه نتيجة السادات مير جلال الدين مجد را از دار الحلا فأ آگره بخدمت و الله بزرگوارش ميرسيد محمد كه مربور بفضيلت و صلاح آر استه است رحصت بگجرات نمودم اين كتاب نفيس شريف راكه مسمى بفتوحات المكي است بدست او بمير مومى اليه فرستادم ـ حرره نياز مد درگاه الهى بور الدير جهانگير پادشاه ابن اكبر بادشاه عازى در مهر ماه الهى سه به ما مطابق رب شوال سه ۲۰۰ هجرى ـ أ

Translation.—" Allah-u-Akbai! When I deputed the scion of the Sayyids, Mîr Jalâl-ud-Dîn Muḥammad from my capital, 'Âgrâ, to Gujarât, the residence of his father Mîr Sayyid Muhammad—a (mystic) adorned with the qualities of excellence and rectitude—I also sent this excellent book, entitled Fûtuhât-al-Makki, to the aforesaid Mîr as a present. Written by this slave of the Court of God, Nûr-ud-Dîn (Muḥammad) Jahângîr Pâdshâh, son of Akbar Pâdshâh Ghâzì, on the 14th of the Ilâhî month. the 14th year (of Julus) corresponding with the 26th Shawwâl, 1028, Hijra."

Sayyid Muḥammad,² who was born on the 14th Rajab, 989 A.H.,³ was a well-known mystic of Aḥmadábád, Gujarât. He was a descendant⁴

^{1.} Some mischievous person has mutilated the autograph of the Emperor by adding additional letters or makaz, or nugta, etc., as for instance, عمال بر ركو ارحس has been changed into و لم يركز المراك المراك

^{2.} His full title vas Sayyid Muhammad. Maqbul 'Âlam bin Sayyid Jalâl-ud-Dîn, Mah 'Âlam (Mirât-1-Ahmadi, Supplement Gaekwad's Oriental Series. p. 41, J. Burgess, The Muhammadan Architecture of Ahmadâbâd, Part 11, London. 1905, p. 15)

^{3.} Mirăt-i Ahmadi, Supplement, p. 41 According to Bidsháhnama (Vol. 1, Part 11, p. 329), 'Amal-Salih (Vol. 111, p. 359) and Ma'athir-ul-Umard, (Vol. 111. p. 4447) the Sayyid got the following chronogram of his birth

⁴ According to Mulla Abdul Hamid (Bádsháhnáma, Vol. 1, Part II, p 329), he was the Fifth in descent from the famous Sûfî saint, Shâh 'Alam Burgess has given the following genealogical table of the Mîr in The Muh. Arch of Ahmadabad (11, p. 15) which is identical with that of the Mirât (Suppl. p 40).

¹ Makhdum Jahâniyân Jahângasht Saiyyid Jalâl Bukhârî (A.D. 1308-1384)

² 'Abdullâh Qutb 'Âlam or Sayyıd Burhán-ud-Dîn, (d. 857 A.H./1453 A.D.) buried at Batuâ (Ahmadâbâd)

^{3.} Sayyid Muhammad Shàh 'Alam known as Miyan Manjla, son of Qutb 'Alam, died 20th Jumâda II, 880 A.H. (21st October, 1475. AD)

^{4.} Sayyıd Râjû, Sattar 'Alam, son of Sháh 'Alam.

^{5.} Sayyıd Ahmad Shahid, Panah 'Alam, son of Râjû Sattar

⁶ Sayyıd 'Abdul Ghafûr, Mazhar 'Alam

⁷ Sayyıd Hasan, Nür 'Alam, son of Sayyıd 'Abdul Ghafür

^{8.} Sayyıd Jalàl-ud-Dîn, Mah 'Alam, son of Sayyıd Hasan

^{9.} Sayyıd Muhammad, Maqbul 'Alam, son of Sayyıd Jalâl-ud-Dîn

of the famous saint Shâh 'Âlam¹ (d. 880 A.H. 1475 A.D.) whose tomb at Rasûlâbâd.² near Aḥmadâbâd, is visited by thousands of devoted Muslims every year. Sayyid Muḥammad was the Sajjada Nashin³ of the tomb of Shâh 'Âlam. He met the Emperor Jahângîr in the 12th and the 13th years of his reign, in 1026 A.H. and 1027 A.H. (1617, 1618 A.D.) The Emperor refers to him in his Memoirs in four places, namely,

(i) when the Sayyid came to see him along with the other Shavkhs

living at Aḥmadàbâd⁴ and

(ii) when the Emperor enquired from him about a reported

miracle of Shâh 'Alam. The Emperor writes (thus)-

"I myself asked Sayyid Muḥammad, who is lord of the prayer carpet (in charge of the Mausoleum) and who is not wanting in excellence and reasonableness, what was the real state of affairs ...", 5 and

(iii) when the Emperor gave him a sum of R- 2,000 for celebrat-

ing the 'Urs of Shah 'Alam' (1027) and when

(iv) he presented to the Mîr a copy of the Qur'an transcribed by the famous calligraphist. Ya'qût-al-Musta'samî and asked him to translate it into Persian and to send it to him through his son Savyid Jalâl. The Emperor has given an interesting account of this incident in his Memoirs He savs:

"On Saturday I ordered Sayyıd Muhammad, grandson of Shah 'Âlam, to ask for whatever he desired without concealment, and I took an oath on the Qorân to this effect. He said that as I had sworn

5. Memoirs, 1., p 422. The Persian text is as follows '--

(Tuzuk-i Jahangiri, Nawal Kishore edition, p. 211)

6 Memoris, 11, p 12

I For Shah 'Alam's life see Mirat-1 A mill Suppl. p 37, Khizi at all Africa is pp 71, 72, for his contribution to Urdu literature see 'Abdul Hag's. The Suli Work in the Early Development of Urdu Language (Aurangabad, Deccan, 1033), pp 28-3. See also M. S. Commissairai's History of Guiar it Vol. 1, 1938 p. 208, etc. 'Aîn-1 Arban (Jarret, 10, p. 3-2).

^{2 &}quot;Rasulabad, the divelling of the apostle or, as the place a now usually styled, Snat. Alm., is within the bounds of the village of Danc-Limua or Sundhal Khandrol, ibeut a mile and a quarter to the south of Ahmadabâd, and two and a nalf miles north-west of Bituwe or Vatuva, where is the tomb of Shah 'Alam's father' (Burgess, The Muh. Arch. of Ahmad bal, 11 p. 16)

³ According to Mirāt-i Ahmadi (Suppl, p. 41), his father Sayyid Jalal Mah. Ala, i zave him the Saijada two years before his death, which took place on the 14th Dhu'l Qa da, 1003 A H.

^{4.} Memoirs of Jahangir (translated by Rogers and Beveridge), Vol 1, p. 419. The Emperor writes thus "On this day Sayyid Muhammad, Sahib Sajiada, (Lord of the prayer carpet), of Shah Alain (a mosque near Ahmedâbâd). . . and other Shaikhs living at Ahmedahad came to meet me and pay their respect."

⁷ Shah Nawâz Khân (Ma'athir-ul-Umara, ii. p 448. Says that the Mir actually translated the Qir an into Persian but I have been unable to trace any contemporary authority supporting this statement

^{8.} Memons, 11, pp 34 35

on the Qorân he would ask for a Qorân, that he might always have it by him, and that the merit of reading it might accrue to His Majesty. Accordingly, I gave the Mîr a Qoran in Ya'qût's handwriting. It was a small, elegant volume, and was the wonder of the age. On the back of it I wrote with my own hand that I had made this gift on a certain day and in a certain place to Sayvid Muḥammad. The real reason for this is that the Mîr is of an exceedingly good disposition endowed with personal nobility and acquired excellences, of good manners and approved ways, with a very pleasing face and open forehead. I have never seen a man of this country of such a pleasing disposition as the Mîr I told him to translate this Qorân into plain language without ornament, and that without occupying himself with explanations or fine language he should translate the Qorân in simple language (lughat-i-rikhta) word for word into Persian, and should not add one letter to its exact purport. After he had completed it he should send it by his son Jalalu-d-dîn Sayyid to the Court. The Mîr's son is also a young man of external and internal intelligence. The signs of piety and blessedness are distinct on his forehead. The Mîr is proud of his son, and in truth he is worthy, as he is an excellent youth."

Mullâ 'Abdul Ḥamid assigns the Sayyid a place of honour among the Shaykhs of the reign of the Emperor Shâhjâhân and states that the Emperor met him twice, once when he visited Gujarât as a prince in the company of the Emperor Jahângîr and again when he was returning from Junair, a hill-fortress in the Deccan. 'Abdul Ḥamid adds that as the Sayyid suffered from asthma, he was unable to wait on the Emperor personally. Accordingly, he sent his son Sayyid Jalâl to the Royal Court. He died in 1045 A.H./1635 A.D. in the eighth year of the reign (of Shâhjahân) and was buried at Rasûlâbâd, outside the city of Ahmadâbâd.

Apparently is a mistake for

¹ Bâdshâhnama, Vol. i, Part 11, p 329

² Ibid, p. 329. 'Amal-1-Salth (Vol. 111, p. 359) gives Ajmîr for Junair. It says:

^{3.} Bádsháhnáma, Vol 1, Part ii, p. 329.

⁴ Ibid., p. 332; 'Amal-1-Salih, 111, p. 359. Mirát-1-Ahmadi (Suppl, p. 42) says that he died on the 12th Rajab, 1045 A.H.

^{5.} Burgess gives the following description of his tomb: "At a distance of about sixty yards west-south from the central mausoleum (of Shâh 'Âlam) is second on the same plan and scale, but having its main entrance on the east, another on the south and doors between the pillars on each face. The arches over these doors are all filled with the same beautiful perforated stone-work as in the Pîr's tomb; much of this, however, has probably been restored in an imitative way during the nineteenth century. The central grave in this tomb is that of Sayyid Muhammad Maqbul 'Âlam, the son of Sayyid Jalâl-ud-dîn Mah 'Âlam, and sixth in descent from the Pîr. Over this grave, upon a stone tablet, are the footprints of the prophet (qadam-i-rasûl yâ sharîf). Inside the dargâh also are three other graves on the south side; these are of Maqbûl 'Âlam's son Sayyid Jalâl ad-Dîn Maqsud 'Âlam, in the centre. " (The Muhammadan Architecture of Ahmadabad, ii, p. 20).

Mîr Sayyid Muḥammad wrote a large number of Sufistic works also, but the author of the Mirat-i-Ahmadi refers to only two of them, namely:

(i) Jum'ât-i-Shâhî (حمات شامى), which is in seven volumes and comprises 'the discourses of Shâh 'Alam on Divine mysteries', and

(ii) Latâ'if-i-Shâhî (الطائب شاوى), comprising the morning and the evening prayers, etc.

He is also reported to have been very generous and to have distributed

500 Maḥmûdî coins every Friday.²

His son Sayyid Jalál, Magsud 'Alam (who carried the present manuscript of the Futuhat from the Emperor Jahangir to his father) was born on Saturday night, 15th Jumâda II, 1003 A H.3 (27th January, 1595 A.D.) He learnt the $Qur'\hat{a}n$ by heart at the age of 11 and later pursued the study of various subjects under Mawlânâ Husayn Shaybânî and completed his studies under Shaykh 'Abdul 'Azîz, a murid and pupil of Maqbul 'Alam. He learnt the mystic sciences from his father. He visited Agra about the year 1028 A.H. and the Emperor Jahangir presented him with an elephant. He also paid visits to the Court of the Emperor Shahjahan in the years 1037 A.H., 1039 A.H., 1047 A.H., and 1048 A.H., and received valuable gifts from the Emperor. On the 9th Sha'ban, 1052 A.H. the Emperor persuaded him to accept the mansab of a Commander of 4000 personal and 700 horse⁷ and later promoted him to a mansab of 6000 personal and 1500 horse. He was also appointed to the post of a Sadr, an office which was previously held by Mûsavî Khân. He was a devoted mystic, versed in the technique of the Sûfîs and wrote verses under the

^{1.} Supplement, p. 42

^{2.} Ibid., p. 42 In 'Amal-i Şalıh (III, pp. 358-359) there is a reference to the generosity of the Mir It is said that all the people, numbering more than a lac, who assembled on the occasion of the 'Urs of Shah, 'Alam are provided with food by the Mîr.

^{3.} The chronogram of his birth is وارت رسول (Badshahnama, Vol 11, Part 11, p 332; Mirāt-1 Ahmadi, Suppl., p 42). According to 'Amal-1 Salth (111, p, 362) he was born on the 11th Jumada II, 1003 A.H.

^{4.} Mirāt-i Ahmadî, Suppl, p. 42.

^{5.} Memoirs (translated by Rogers and Beveridge), 11, p. 98.

^{6.} Yâd-i Avyyâm (by 'Abdul Hayy), 'Alîgarh, 1919, p 74. According to the Bâdshāhnáma, 11, p 134 1048 A.H.), p. 142 (1048 A H.), p. 144 (1048 A.H.), p. 151 (1050 A.H.), p. 155 (1049 A H.), p. 290 (1052 A H.), p. 307 (1052 A.H.), p. 310 (1052 A H.), he was given 500 mihr, 2 horses. Rs 10.003. Rs. 3,000, Rs. 5,000; Rs. 5,000; Rs. 5,000; Rs. 10,000, respectively

^{7.} Bådshåhnåma, it, pp. 315, 316. He was also awarded Rs 30,000 cash, besides other presents. Shah Nawaz Khan (Ma'athir-ul-Umara, iii, p 449) says that the general public disapproved of this action of the Sayyid.

^{8.} On 11th Jumáda I, 1056 A.H. (Badsháhnama, 11 p. 511). A little later he was raised to 6000 personal and 2000 horse (Bâdsháhnáma, 11, pp. 627. 718).

^{9.} Badshahnama, ii, p. 316; (Mc'athir-ul-Umara, iii, p. 449)

pen-name of Rizā'i, or Rizā.¹ According to Mulla 'Abdul Ḥamîd, the Emperor Shāhjahān had a very high opinion of Sayyid Jalal's attainments and character and had expressed the opinion that he 'was a most genial companion.'² In 1056 A.H. (1646, A.D.) we find him at Kābul³ and, a year later (20th Rabî' II, 1057) we hear of his death at Lahore.⁴ He was buried there and later his body was exhumed and taken to Aḥmadābād and buried at Rasûlābād, near the grave of his father, Sayyid Muḥammad.⁵

1. On a pillar of the porch of the great ranza of Qutab Alam at Batwa, the following verses, apparently composed by the same Jalal, are to be found:

(Translation: "Qutab 'Alam who is sovereign of the spheres.

Has by the rauza augmented the glory of the spheres.

Ere this vault of the sky had no Crown;

His Gunbad (sepulchral cupola) became the crown of the spheres.

Composed by the born Slave of the family Jalal bin Muhamm d bin Jalal Shahi").

(H Cousens, Revised List of Antiquarian Remains in the Bombay Presidency, 1897, p. 307). In Mirāt-i Ahmadî (Suppl., p. 43) three Rubai's of Sayyid Jalâl are quoted. Of them, the following bears the pen-name of the poet, i.e., Riza:

In 'Amal-i-Şaliḥ (ni, pp. 360, 361) three more Ruba'is are quoted; while in Ma'âthir-ul-Umarâ (in, p. 449) another Rubâ'î is given which the author quotes with the following remark:

- 2. Bádsháhnáma, Vol. i, Part ii, p. 331.
- 3. Ibida, Vol. 11, pp. 519, 571. Ma' âthir-ul-Umarâ, i, p. 771. A year earlier he was in Kashmîr (Bâd-shâhnâma, 11, p. 448).
- 4. Bâdshâhrâma, Vol. 11, p. 718. The news of his death was conveyed to the Emperor on the 1st umâda I, 1057 (Bâdshâhnâma, ii, p. 681) who expressed regret at his death; asked for his pardon from God and bestowed Royal favours on his descendants. 'Amal-1-Ṣaliḥ (iii, p. 362) places the Sayyid's death on the 11th Jumâda II, which does not seem to be correct. According to Mirāt-1-Aḥmadî (Suppl. p. 43), however, the Sayyid died in 1059 A.H. which is quite wrong. See also Ma'âthir-ul-Umarâ (iii, p. 450) where the Sayyid is reported to have died on the 1st Jumâda I, 1057 A H.
 - 5. Mirât-1 Ahmadî, Supplement, p. 43. Sayyid Jalâl was survived by three sons:
- (i) Sayyıd Ja'far Badr-1-'Âlam (born 1023 A.H., died 1085 A.H.). He succeeded his father as Saijâda Nashîn in 1052 A.H. (Bâdshâhnâma, ii, p. 315); suffered from an attack of paralysis in 1056 A.H. (Bad. p. 682), refused to accept the office of Sadr-us-Sudûr under Shâhjahân (Mirât, Suppl., p. 44), etc. He is reported to have been excelled his father in learning (Bad., ii, p. 753). He was a volum nous writer, and the author of the Mirât (Suppl. pp. 43, 44) refers to one of his works entitled Rauzat-i Shâhi, divided into 24 volumes, the first twenty of which deal with the lives of the saints, etc., and the last four contain a discussion on Hadîth and Tafsîr. See also Yâd-i-Aiyyâm (by 'Abdul Hays), pp. 75, 76. Sayyid Ja'far's son, Sayyid Muhammad, Mahbûb 'Alam (d. 1111 A.H.) was also a well-known author and mystic: (Mirât-i Ahmadî, Suppl., p. 44).
- (ii) Sayyıd 'Alî the second son, (d. 1091 A.H.) held high offices under Shâhjahân and Aurangzîb. In the 28th year of the reign of Shâhjahân the title of Rizawî Khân was conferred upon him, while in the 10th year of the reign of Aurangzîb he was appointed Sadr-i-'Azam. (For details see Ma'âthir-ul-Umarâ, ii, pp. 307-309).
- (ni) Sayyıd Mûsâ, the third son, who also held an office under Shâhjahân, was sent by the Emperor to Ahmadâbâd to assist his brother, Sayyid Ja'far, who suffered from paralysis (Bâdshâhnâma, ii, p 6, and 2).

Jahângîr says in his autograph-note on the Futuhat MS. that he entrusted the copy to Sayyid Jalâl on the 14th of the Ilâhi month of Daî, in the 14th year of his Julûs (accession) corresponding with the 26th Shawwâl, 1028 A.H. There is an entry in the Memoirs, in the 14th year of the accession, dated the 24th Shahrîwar, which runs as follows:—

"To Sayyid Jalâl, s. Sayyid Muḥammad, the grandson of Shâh 'Alam Bukhârî, an account of whom has been written among the events of my Gujarât expedition, I gave leave to return. I gave him

a female elephant for his riding, as well as his expenses."1

It appears that the note on the Futuhat MS. was written some three weeks after the Emperor had given the Sayyid 'leave to return.' It is also probably certain that the Sayyid did not leave Agra immediately. Apparently, he remained there for some weeks more and received the manuscript at the time he took formal leave of the Emperor on or about 14th Mihr, the 14th year of the Julûs.

The MS. did reach Mîr Sayvid Muḥammad at Aḥmadâbâd who, as a token of love, gave it to Sayyid Jalâl who had brought it all the way from Agra. His autograph-note which is in Arabic runs as follows:—

Translation.—I gave this book to the delight of my eyes, the strength of my back and the namesake of my father, my son Jalâl-ud-Dîn Muḥammad. May God prolong his life in accordance with His will. Written with his own hand by Muḥammad, son of Jalâl-ud-Dîn Muḥammad. May God pardon their sins.

Of the three autographs on the manuscript, e.g., of 'Abdur Rahîm Khân-Khânân, the Emperor Jahângîr and Mîr Sayyid Muḥammad, the last one appears to me to be the most valuable, for, while the autographs of the former two are not very rare, I do not know of the existence of any other autograph of the Mîr.

I hope that the publication of these notes will enable the authorities of the Victoria Memorial Hall to correct the following fantastic description of the manuscript which they have published in their Illustrated Catalogue

of the Exhibits:2

"904—Manuscript copy of Fatoohat Maki (in Five Volumes). A Book on Sufism by Mohiuddin Arabi in Arabic Language. Vol. I is in the handwriting of the Emperor Jahangir; Volume II in that of Abdul Rahim Khan, son of Bairam Khan and Vol. III in that of Akbar."

I am grateful to my friend Mr. Percy Brown, A.R.C.A., the Curator of the Hall who granted me every facility in my work.

^{1.} Memoirs (translated by Rogers and Beveridge, ii, p. 98).

^{2.} Calcutta, 1925, p. 50.



Thy-leaf of the MS of Futuhat at Makkiyya bearing the autographs of the Emperor ahângir, 'Abdur Rahim, (Khan-Khanan) and Mir Sayyid Muhammad of Gujarat

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