



# PERSO-INDICA

*An Analytical Survey of Persian Works  
on Indian Learned Traditions*

---

OFFPRINT

# PERSO-INDICA.

## AN ANALYTICAL SURVEY OF PERSIAN WORKS ON INDIAN LEARNED TRADITIONS

is published on line at: [www.perso-indica.net](http://www.perso-indica.net)  
ISSN: 2267-2753

### CHIEF EDITORS

Fabrizio Speziale (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

Carl W. Ernst (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

### INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Muzaffar Alam (University of Chicago, Illinois)

Marc Gaborieau (Formerly Professor, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

Fathullah Mojtaba'i (Tehran)

Sheldon Pollock (Columbia University, New York)

Francis Richard (Paris)

Sreeramula Rajeswara Sarma (Formerly Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh)

Chander Shekhar (University of Delhi, New Delhi)

### SECTION EDITORS

Carl W. Ernst (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Supriya Gandhi (Yale University, New Haven)

Susanne Kurz (Ruhr-Universität, Bochum)

Corinne Lefèvre (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

Eva Orthmann (University of Göttingen, Göttingen)

Katherine Butler Schofield (King's College, London)

Pegah Shahbaz (Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation)

Fabrizio Speziale (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

Audrey Truschke (Rutgers University, Newark)

### ADDRESS

Perso-Indica  
c/o Fabrizio Speziale  
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales  
Centre d'études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du sud  
54 Boulevard Raspail  
75006, Paris  
France  
e-mail: [fabrizio.speziale@ehess.fr](mailto:fabrizio.speziale@ehess.fr)

## *Tuhfat al-hind*

*Tuhfat al-hind* (Gift from India), an encyclopaedic exposition of “the current Indian sciences” (*‘ulūm-i mutadāwila-yi hindiya*), was composed around 1085/1674-75 by Mīrzā Ḥān ibn Faḥr al-Dīn, a Mughal nobleman and litterateur in the Mughal emperor Awrangzeb’s (r. 1068/1658-1118/1707) court. It was written for one of the Emperor’s sons, the prince Muḥammad A‘zam (1653-1707) being the most likely addressee since the majority of the manuscripts name him as the dedicatee. The phrase “current Indian sciences” refers to the contemporaneous practices corresponding to the ensemble of linguistic, literary, musical, erotological and characterological discourses available to Mīrzā Ḥān in Braj Bhāṣā as well as through personal practice and observation. Noteworthy is the polysemy of the title that is also translatable as “gift to India”, an ambiguity that captures the two-way character of the translation. What little is known of Mīrzā Ḥān’s biography is inferable from his works. Apart from the work under consideration he composed a commentary on the panegyrics (*qaṣā’id*) of ‘Urfī Šīrāzī (d. 999/1591), a prominent poet of the “Speaking Anew” (*tāza-gūyī*) tradition of the Persian *ghazal* that was as popular in his courtly milieu as it was criticized. From the mid seventeenth century ‘Urfī’s panegyrics had become an object of analysis and evaluation among votaries and critics of Speaking Anew. That Mīrzā Ḥān authored a commentary on them, too, signals his implication in these debates and explains his use, as will be noted ahead, of technical Speaking Anew terminology when explaining the erotic “subtle expressions” (*bing*) of Braj poetics.

The *Tuhfat al-hind* is divided into an introduction, on the Braj alphabet, seven chapters (*bāb*), and a conclusion. The seven chapters respectively address: (i) “prosody” (*pingal* in Braj, *‘arūz* in Persian), (ii) “rhyme” (*tuk* in Braj, *qāfiya* in Persian), (iii) “tropology and metaphors” (*‘ilm-i badī‘ va bayān*), (iv) “the amorous mood in literature” (*singār-ras* in Braj), (v) “the combined arts of music, dance and

drama” (*sangīt*), (vi) “erotology” (‘*ilm-i kok*), (vii) “physiognomy” (*sāmuddrik* in Braj, *qiyāfa* in Persian). The final section is a dictionary (*luḡāt-i hindi*) of Braj words glossed in Persian.

The introduction (*muqadimma*), in four sub-chapters (*faṣl*) and further sub-divisions, introduces the Braj alphabet and thus lays down the phonetic key to the terminology expounded in rest of the text. Rather than modifying Perso-Arabic orthography as contemporary Urdu does to indicate phonemes that do not exist in Persian-Arabic, Mīrzā Ḥān devises new names for such phonemes. For example, he names the aspirated ‘ba’ in the Braj word *bhār* (weight) *ba-yi muwahhida-yi taqīla* (the single-dotted heavy ‘ba’) and the retroflex ‘ṭha’ in *thag* (thief) *tā-yi fuqāni-i atqal* (the double-dotted hyper-stressed ‘ta’). He thus denominates and specifies the pronunciation of the seventeen Braj letters that do not exist in the Perso-Arabic alphabet. His concern with the correct pronunciation of Braj serves the purpose of avoiding errors arising from Perso-Arabic prosodic habits in the scansion of Braj poetry and thus, arguably, the more general purpose of decorous courtly presentation. That this concern arose from his familiarity with Braj as it was vocalized in his milieu rather than with Sanskrit prosody is evident in how he specifies vowel points (*ḥarakāt*) even for letter-combinations such as ‘br’ in *brahma* (the creator God) that are voweled in Braj enunciation but not in Sanskrit. He is also careful to distinguish the Indian pronunciation of words deriving from Persian-Arabic, an example being the name for the song-genre *ḥayāl* that the people of India, he notes, enunciate with an aspirated first consonant as *khayāl* (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 353) Finally, it should be noted that his exposition of Braj orthography had its paradigmatic precedent in Abū al-Faḍl’s *Ā’in-i Akbarī*. In the second *faṣl* he relates the number and sequence of the thirty five letters of the Braj alphabet, the eighteen Perso-Arabic letters shared with Braj, the fourteen Perso-Arabic ones that do not appear in the Braj alphabet, the seventeen that are peculiar to Braj speech (*muḥāwara*) and that do not have equivalents in Persian-Arabic, the thirty five simple (*mufrad*) or freestanding letters of the Devanāgarī alphabet and, finally, the rules for Devanāgarī letter combinations (*murakkabāt*). This tabulation of orthographic asymmetries and selective use of Perso-Arabic orthographic terminology already discloses his approach through the rest of this work towards the two knowledge-systems he juxtaposes: where he finds equivalent Perso-Arabic terms he cites them, otherwise only translating the Braj term for his princely reader who, we know, was already an accomplished poet in Braj and a connoisseur of the Braj-

related traditions Mīrzā Ḥān expounds. The third *faṣl* expounds sixteen varieties of “vowel marks” or *māt* in Braj (*i rāb* in Persian and Arabic) and the grammatical rules pertaining to them, justifying this taxonomy like others by citing a doctrine of “the scholars of India” (*‘ulamā-yi hind*), in this case to the effect that the unlisted thirty fifth letter which was also a diacritical point – namely *hamza* in Persian or *akār* in Braj – was believed by them to inhere in the nature of all the letters. Such citations of doctrine seem to serve the limited purpose of furnishing the princely reader with transmitted explanations when they are not already rationally inferable. The fourth *faṣl* relates in greater detail the kinds of Braj “vowel marks”, their orthography with consonants as well as expounding Braj grammar under ten sub-headings. Here, he justifies his choice of Braj from among Sanskrit, Prākṛit and Braj, these being the three languages of “the people of India [...] in which one can write books and *dīwāns* [i.e. anthologies of poetry] and are pleasing to sound natures and sharp minds” (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 51). While Sanskrit and Prākṛit are the languages of the celestial and subterranean worlds, respectively, Braj or *Bhākhā* “is the language of the world in which we are” (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 52). He writes that “They compose colourful poems and descriptions of lover and beloved mostly in this language”, adding that “apart from Sanskrit and Prākṛit it [i.e. the noun *bhākhā*] is generally applied to all the languages, especially that of the people of Braj (*zabān-i ahl-i braj*)” (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 52). This account of Braj discloses the worldly or profane character of the Braj-related phenomena Mīrzā Ḥān is addressing, their association with courtly pleasure and, from an imperial perspective, the metonymic representation by the Braj language of all the languages of the Mughal empire. His exposition of Braj grammar takes the form of an elucidation of the three kinds of *sabd*, glossed by the Perso-Arabic *kalama* or “utterance”. Here, too, wherever possible, he provides equivalent terms from Arabic grammar, otherwise simply glossing the Braj in Persian with examples.

The first chapter (*bāb*) of the main text is an exposition, in three sub-chapters, of “the science of prosody” (*‘ilm-i pingal* in Braj, *‘arūṣ* in Persian). This exposition serves the following pragmatic aims: to assist its reader in the recognition of “short” (*lagh*) and “long” (*gur*) syllables aurally and by their transcriptions in Devanāgarī as well as by the Persian notations Mīrzā Ḥān stipulates for them, to let him taxonomize the meters by name and foot (*mātrā*) length, to recognize the auspicious meters from the inauspicious, the deities associated with each and to scan meters. Mīrzā Ḥān concludes this chapter by relating fourteen meters he has invented. He thus both displays his

encyclopaedic knowledge of the science of Braj prosody by his pedagogical exposition of it while also contributing to it by extending its rules to invent his own meters. In this exposition if not in his inventions Mīrzā Ḥān draws large parts of his information from Faqīr Allāh Sayf Ḥān's *Rāg-darpan*, a translation made in 1076/1666 of a Braj treatise on music, *Mān-kutuhāl*, by Rāja Mān Singh of Gwalior (r. 1486-1516) (Faqīr Allāh 1996). This was a mode of innovation familiar in Persian literary and artistic history. In the context of Speaking Anew *ghazal* practice it entailed working innovations on what were considered “Pre-Eternal” (*azalī*) *ghazal* topoi (*maẓāmīn*) while in painting it took the form of organizing relations in pictorial space according to schemas (*tarḥ*) that were inherited from prestigious older paintings and that were patterned with geometrical figures like the hexagon that bore cosmological significations (Minissale 2006, pp. 59-60). Noteworthy are Mīrzā Ḥān's attempts in his expositions of each of the current eighty-four Braj meters to illustrate the meter with Persian verses of his own, thus mapping Perso-Arabic syllabic notations (*afā'īl*) onto Braj verse. This exercise in inter-lingual prosodic mapping – at which Mīrzā Ḥān is unevenly successful on account of disparate ways of measuring syllable lengths in Braj and Perso-Arabic (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 283) – was probably unprecedented since the scansion of the earliest Persian poetry by the rules of Arabic prosody.

The second chapter presents thirty-two syllables of rhyme (*tuk* in Braj, *qāfiya* in Persian), thirty varieties of vowelized and quiescent rhymes (*tuk-māt*), seven technical names for kinds of rhyme (*tuk-jāt*), three kinds of defective rhyme and four kinds of syllables used by their location before or after the end of a hemistich or in mixed or broken forms to generate repeating lexemes glossed as equivalents of the Perso-Arabic *radīf*. Because long and short Braj syllables are both counted as simple (*mufrad*) rather than compound (*murakkab*) syllables, Braj has a greater variety of rhyming syllables than Persian. This places technical limits on Mīrzā Ḥān's attempts to illustrate Braj rhyme patterns with Persian verses. When confronted with this limit he illustrates his categories with Braj lexemes and translates them.

The third chapter is an exposition of “the science of tropology and metaphors” (*alankār* in Braj, *badī' wa bayān* in Persian). Mīrzā Ḥān introduces this topic as the Braj equivalent of the hold-all Persian category of “rhetoric” (*faṣāḥat wa balāḡat*). In doing this he draws on the tradition established in Persian since the late 5th/11th century of subsuming expositions of tropes or figures of speech, metaphors and semantics without differentiation under “the science of tropology” (Rādūyānī

1368/1949). This is why he inventories the “nine moods” (*nau ras*) of Braj poetics under this heading. His subsequent exposition of the “subtle expressions” (*bing*) in Braj by which the female lover-speaker (*nāyikā*) makes erotic insinuations at her male lover (*nāyak*) is indebted to the terminology deriving from the Speaking Anew *ghazal* practice, popular in his milieu, of *nāzūk-ḥayālī* or “subtle imagination”. His exposition after this of six kinds of “comparison” (*upmā* in Braj, *tašbīḥ* in Persian) maps the topic (*upamayī* in Braj, *mušabbah* in Perso-Arabic) and vehicle (*upmān* in Braj, *mušabbih bihi* in Perso-Arabic) of such Braj metaphors onto the Perso-Arabic terms for them while only glossing the Braj terms for the sub-varieties of metaphor that have no Perso-Arabic equivalents. He then presents seventeen kinds of “figures of speech” (*alankār* in Braj, *ṣan ‘at-i kalām wa šī ‘r* in Persian) established by “the ancient masters of the people of India” (*ustādān-i qadīm-i ahl-i hind*), making consistent use of the Perso-Arabic terms for a comparison’s topic and vehicle and illustrating them with Persian comparisons whose images sometimes conform to Braj convention and sometimes to those of Persian. However, he illustrates the subsequent four “figures of speech” which he claims as his own inventions with Braj couplets (*dohā*) of his own. Since the first of these corresponds to a figure in Arabic rhetoric he cites the Arabic term for it too. He concludes this chapter with an exposition of twenty kinds of poetic “defects” (*dokhan* in Braj, *‘ayb* in Persian) or violations of convention, partly depending for the intelligibility of such a categorization on its implicit correspondence to the Persian rhetorical category of linguistic “outlandishness” (*garābat*).

The fourth chapter, on “the science of the amorous mood in literature” (*singār-ras* in Braj, *‘ilm-i ‘āšiqī wa ma ‘šūqī wa bayān-i aḥwāl-i ‘āšiq wa ma ‘šūq* in Persian), reveals, by the very length of the Persian gloss of the Braj term *singār-ras*, the absence of an equivalent Perso-Arabic category. This absence offers Mīrzā Ḥān an occasion to compare and contrast the relations of lover and beloved across Braj, Arabic and Persian, a comparison that, as we will note ahead, would furnish a model for later Mughal comparisons of the three literary-linguistic traditions. Whereas in Braj poetics it is the woman who expresses her desire for the man, in Arabic it is the inverse while in Persian, in contrast to Braj and Arabic, a man expresses his desire for a man. He then glosses three kinds of “lover-heroines” (*nāyikās*) and their sub-varieties according to the nature of their relation to their husbands or lover-heroes (*nāyak*) followed by three kinds of lover-heroes and their sub-varieties according to the nature of their relations to their wives or lover-heroines. These glosses, as well as those of the female “go-

between” (*dūtī*), the three kinds of states of relation between the lovers and four kinds of encounters between them are mostly descriptive taxonomies that draw, wherever possible, on the rhetoric of conventionalized amorous descriptions in Persian and, where not possible, use Perso-Arabic terms related to adultery and fornication.

The fifth chapter, on “the science of melodic systems, metrical-rhythmic systems and dance” (*sangīt* in Braj, *musīqī* in Persian), comprises perhaps the most comprehensive exposition in Persian of contemporaneous Mughal courtly song, musical-instrumental and dance practices. It was rivalled in popularity of reception by the chapter on *sangīt* in Abū al-Faḥl’s *Ā’in-i Akbarī*, by Faqīr Allāh Sayf Ḥān’s *Rāg-darpan*, Mīrzā Roṣān Ḥamīd’s *Tarjuma-yi parījātak* (mid 17th century) and Ras Baras’s *šams al-aṣwāt*, although it was, in comparison with these, the least original and most derivative of the canonical Persian-language works on North Indian art music. In his synopsis of the mythic origins of the four main musical “schools” (*mat* in Braj, *madḥab* in Persian) in three deities and an ascetic, respectively, Mīrzā Ḥān draws on a Perso-Arabic historiographical tradition of relying on transmitted knowledge (*naql*) where rationally accessible knowledge (*‘aql*) is unavailable. However, it should be noted that in Mughal India of his period these names designated the four classical *rāga-māla* (“garland of *rāgas*”) systems (comprising 6 *rāgas*, imagined as male, 5 or 6 *rāginīs* each, imagined as their wives, and sometimes their children-*rāgas* too) as formulated in Sanskrit musical treatises and included no aspect of music or dance theory (Ebeling 1973). Mīrzā Ḥān depends for this information partially on Faqīr Allāh Sayf Ḥān’s *Rāg-darpan* and mostly on Dāmodara’s Sanskrit treatise *Saṅgītadarpaṇa*, composed in 1609 for the emperor Jahāṅgīr and translated into Braj in the mid 17th century by Harīvallabh, this translation being Mīrzā Ḥān’s probable means of access to Dāmodara’s treatise. Mīrzā Ḥān mainly presents in ten sub-chapters the song, musical-instrumental and dance related practices current in his milieu, stating that the Hanūmān-mat “is the one normal and current in this age” while the Someśwar-mat, Bharat-mat and Kallināth-mats are described only insofar as their practices diverge from those of the Hanūmān-mat. With the exception of the sub-chapter on Iranian music, discussed ahead, all these sub-chapters, too, are translations – notwithstanding a few of Mīrzā Ḥān’s own observations – of Dāmodara’s expositions on the same topics. It is worth noting that Abū al-Faḥl’s *Ā’in-i Akbarī* cites the Someśwar-mat, not the Hanūmān-mat, as being current in its age and that the earliest known reference to the Hanūmān-mat appears in the *Saṅgītadarpaṇa* (Powers 1980, p. 480). Unlike in



the rest of the chapters (*bāb*) of the *Tuhfat al-hind*, the author here names the textual sources he depends on: “I have inferred and derived each of the afore-mentioned four schools from such reliable treatises (*grantha*) as *Rāgārṇava*, *Saṅgīt-darpan*, *Mān-kutūhal*, *Sabhā-binod* and others and, in dedication to the Hanumān-mat, have expounded them in detail in this book” (Ḥān 1354/1975, p. 324). That he does not name the authors of these sources only signals their renown in his courtly milieu as well as the pragmatic, performance-oriented aims of this exposition. It is also worth noting that he depended not only on Braj treatises like *Mān-kutūhal* by Rāja Mān Singh of Gwalior (r. 890/1486-921/1516) but also on the afore-mentioned Faqīr Allāh Sayf Ḥān’s Persian *Rāg-darpan* part of whose first chapter was a translation of *Mān-kutūhal* (Faqīr Allāh 1996). This chapter presents the most prestigious ascription of the origins of *ḥayāl*, contemporary North and Central India’s dominant genre of traditional music, to sultan Ḥusayn Šāh Šarqī of Jaunpur (r. 1458-83); and of the technique of *tarāna* or *tillāna* to Amīr Ḥusraw (d. 725/1325), ascriptions that must be understood, not literally, but as the implication of the musical legacies of these figures, appropriated by Sufi shrine-based singers, in the later emergence of these and other genres (Brown 2010, p. 168). In his taxonomy of *rāgas* or Indian musical modes and their derivations and combinations Mīrzā Ḥān often includes iconographic specifications (*ṣūrat*) for 36 *rāgas* and *rāginīs* of the Hanūmān-mat, drawing these entirely from Dāmodara’s *Saṅgītadarpaṇa* or its Braj translation, thus transmitting and further authorizing Dāmodara and Harīvallabh’s verbal formulations, confined to the *rāga-māla* genre, of the rules of courtly Persian painting. A comparison of these Braj iconic prescriptions (*dhyāns*) with Mīrzā Ḥān’s remains a scholarly desideratum. His penultimate sub-chapter expounds the melodic modes (*maqām*) of the music of “the people of Iran” (*ahl-i ‘ajam*), stating under one sub-division which Indian note (*sur* in Braj, *āhang* in Persian) each Iranian mode corresponds to. In this brief passage, it is Persian musical categories that are translated into Indian ones rather than vice versa. Given the still-current differences between these two modal systems, this was basically a comparison of scale.

The sixth chapter (*bāb*), on “erotology” (*‘ilm-i kok*), inventories the types of female and male lovers, describes their sexual organs, five kinds of sexual intercourse, the six ages of maturity in a woman, the symptoms of sexual excitement and dissatisfaction in her, the kinds of go-betweens between lovers, scenes of love-trysts, etiquettes of intimacy, sexual positions and treatments for sexual diseases. The

topic of this chapter like that of the fourth chapter on “the amorous mood” has no discrete Perso-Arabic category that might be a generic equivalent though it very likely depended for its format and terminology on earlier Persian texts on the same topic, such as the widely copied adaptation of the *Kokaśāstra* attributed to Ẓiyā’ al-Dīn Naḥṣabī (d. ca. 750/1350-51) and entitled *Laddat al-nisā’*. The absence of a discrete Perso-Arabic category accounts for why Mīrzā Ḥān retains the Sanskrit-derived Braj word *kok* (from the name of Pandit Kokkoka, the author of the *Kokaśāstra*) in this chapter title (Ms. Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Or. 4° 214/1, ff. 242b-243a). Here, as elsewhere in the *Tuhfat al-hind*, he does not omit to name and taxonomize a Braj knowledge-system when it does not correspond to equivalents in a Perso-Arabic one, instead offering literal translations or paraphrases of his sources. Where he does find such equivalences possible, as in the remaining chapters, he does not alter either Braj or Perso-Arabic terminology in his adaptation of one to the other, keeping the two discrete and naming equivalent terms only where they are available.

The seventh chapter, on the science of “physiognomy” (*sāmuddrik* in Braj, *qiyāfa* in Persian), taxonomizes “the knowledge of lines on the hands and feet and so forth by which the signs (‘*alāmat*) of the virtue (*ḥayr*), fortune (*ṣa‘ādat*) and misery (*ṣaqāwat*) of men and women may be known” (Ms. Berlin, Staatsbibliothek, Or. 4° 214/1, f. 260a), making consistent use of terms he establishes at the beginning by translation. Facilitating and authorizing this terminological consistency is Mīrzā Ḥān’s implicit dependence on the already established Islamic “science of physiognomy” or ‘*ilm-i firāsa*, also termed *qiyāfa* (Speziale 2010, pp. 425-426).

The *Tuhfat al-hind* concludes with a dictionary (*luḡat-i hindī*) of some three thousand Braj words transliterated according to the rules established in the work’s introduction and glossed in Persian. This is perhaps the earliest Braj to Persian dictionary and probably set the precedent for ‘Abd al-Wāsi’ Hānsawī’s late 11th/17th century Braj-Persian dictionary, *Ġarāyib al-luḡāt*, as well as Sirāj al-Dīn ‘Alī Ḥān Ārzū’s emendations of Hānsawī’s work, *Nawādir al-alfāz* completed in 1163/1750 (Ārzū 1951).

The courtly prestige of Mīrzā Ḥān’s *Tuhfat al-hind*, drawing on first-hand knowledge of Arabic, Persian and Braj, set an authoritative precedent for subsequent Mughal projects in comparative poetics by leading litterateur-teachers such as Sirāj al-Dīn ‘Alī Ḥān Ārzū (d. 1168/1755) in his *Muṭmir* (Ārzū 1991) and Ġulām ‘Alī

Āzād Bilgrāmī in his Arabic exposition of Braj *nāyikā-bhed* (the taxonomization of lover-heroines), *Subḥat al-marjān fi āṭār al-hindustān* (Āzād 1976-80) and its Persian translation, *Ġizlān al-hind* (Āzād 2004). It also facilitated a sharper conceptualization by such later masters of Persian literary culture of the locality of the universal categories of Perso-Arabic rhetoric, thus authorizing the regional literary practices of Urdu and Braj (Keshavmurthy 2013). Finally, it further authorized already current inter-lingual literary innovation such as Ārzū's break in one of his *ġazals* with the descriptive convention of the Persian *ġazal* that normally describes a male beloved. Implicitly invoking the Braj *nāyikā* in this *ġazal*, Ārzū described the beloved's breasts (Ārzū 1990, p. 234). By the late 19th century in North India the appropriation of the pre-colonial Braj heritage by the nascent Hindi and Hindu nationalism and the concomitant characterization by leading Hindu and Muslim litterateurs of Persian as a mainly Muslim language mostly obscured or distorted the literary memory of the *Tuhfat al-hind*. An instance of such ideological distortion by nationalist categories of reception is the brief essay in his journal by Mawlānā Šiblī Nu'mānī (d. 1914), one of the period's most respected North Indian Muslim intellectuals, on the *Tuhfat al-hind*. In this essay Šiblī, responding to a letter from a Hindu reader who complained that the Muslim rulers of India had not patronized Hindu arts and literatures, expounded the contents of the text as an instance of royal Muslim interest in Hindu arts, the denominations "Hindu" and "Muslim" ascribing theologico-political identities to previously profane and communally non-specific courtly practices of pleasure.

**Manuscripts:** **Berlin**, Staatsbibliothek, Sprenger 1655, 232 ff., **viii**) Pertsch 1888, p. 1019. **Berlin**, Staatsbibliothek, Or. 4° 214/1, 278 ff., **ii**) *ramazān* 1209/22 March - 21 April 1795, **viii**) Pertsch 1888, pp. 83-84. **Berlin**, Staatsbibliothek, Sprenger 1656, 295 ff., **viii**) Pertsch 1888, pp. 1019-1020. **Berlin**, Staatsbibliothek, Sprenger 1666, 82 ff., **vii**) only chapter on music, **viii**) Pertsch 1888, p. 1020. **Oxford**, Bodleian Library, Elliott 383, 247 ff., **vii**) no colophon, but according to Sachau and Ethé it may be the author's autograph, **viii**) Sachau - Ethé 1889, cc. 1022-1023. **London**, British Library, India Office, 1269, 278 ff., **ii**) 7 *rajab* 1194/9 July 1780, **viii**) Ethé 1903, cc. 1117-1118. **London**, British Library, India Office, 1861, 126 ff., **vii**) only chapter on music, **viii**) Ethé 1903, cc. 1118-1119. **London**, British Library, India Office, 3407, 98 ff., **vii**) fragments of the introduction and conclusion, **viii**) Ethé 1903, c. 1119. **Paris**, Bibliothèque nationale de France, supplément persan 387, 411 ff.,

**viii)** Blochet 1905, p. 190. **Patna**, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Library, 911-912 (2 vols.), 400 ff., **ii)** 27 *ramāzān* 1211/26 March 1797. **Calcutta**, Asiatic Society of Bengal, I 156, 300 ff., **ii)** 6 *rabīʿ al-awwal* 1254/31 May 1838, **viii)** Ivanow 1926, p. 433.

Legend: i) Place of copying; ii) Period of copying; iii) Copyist; iv) Commissioner; v) Information on colophon; vi) Description of miniatures/illustrations; vii) Other remarks; viii) Information on catalogue(s)

**Editions:** *Tuḥfat al-hind*, Nūr al-Ḥasan Anṣārī, ed., Tehran, Bunyād-i Farhang-i Īrān, 1354/1975. *Tuḥfat al-hind, wāḏa-nāma-yi Hindī ba-Fārsī*, Delhi, Baḥṣ-i Fārsī-i Dānišgāh-i Dihlī, 1983.

**Commentary:** Šiblī Nuʿmānī, Muḥammad, 1951, “Tuḥfat al-hind”, in: *Maqālāt-i Šiblī: jild-i duwwum*, Azamgarh, Maṭbaʿ-ī Maʿārif-i Aʿẓamgarh.

**English translation:** *A Grammar of the Braj Bhakha*, M. Ziauddin, ed., Calcutta, Visva-Bharati Series No. 3, 1935 (English translation only of the Introduction’s exposition of Braj grammar).

**Secondary sources bibliography:** **Abū al-Faẓl**, *Āʾīn-i Akbarī*, English translation: *The Āʾīn-i Akbarī*, 3 vols, H. Blochmann - D.C. Phillott - H.S. Jarrett - J. Sarkar, eds., Calcutta, 1929-1948 (reprint Lahore, 2004). **Ārzū**, Sirāj al-Dīn ‘Alī Ḥān, 1951, *Nawādir al-alfāz*, S. ‘Abd Allāh, ed., Karachi, Anjuman-i taraqqī-i Urdū. **Ārzū**, Sirāj al-Dīn ‘Alī Ḥān, 1991, *Muṭmir*, Rehana Ḥātūn, ed., Karachi, Institute of Central Asian Studies. **Asḡar**, Sayyid Muḥammad, 1990, *Dīwān-i Ārzū*, PhD thesis, Aligarh Muslim University, not published. **Āzād**, Ġulām ‘Alī Bilgrāmī, 1976-80, *Subḥat al-marjān fī āṭār hindustān: jild-i yekum wa duwwum*, Muḥammad Faẓl al-Raḥman al-Nadwī al-Siwānī, ed., Aligarh, Jamiʿat ‘Alīgarh al-Islāmiyya. **Āzād**, Ġulām ‘Alī Bilgrāmī, 1382/2004, *Ġizlān al-hind: muṭālaʿa-yi ṭaḥbīqī-i balāḡat-i hindī wa pārsī*, Sirūs Šamisa, ed., Tehran, Sada-yi Muʿašir. **Blochet**, E., 1905, *Catalogue des manuscrits persans de la Bibliothèque Nationale*, Paris, vol. 1. **Brown**, Katherine Butler, 2010, “The Origins and Early Development of Khayal”, in: J. Bor - F. Delvoye - J. Harvey - E. Nijenhuis, eds., *Hindustani Music: Thirteenth to Twentieth Centuries*, Delhi, Manohar, pp. 159-191. **Ebeling**, Klaus, 1973, *Rāgamāla Painting*, Basel - Paris - New Delhi, Ravi Kumar. **Ethé**, Hermann, 1903, *Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in the Library of the India Office*, Oxford, vol. 1. **Faqīr Allāh**, Sayf Ḥān, 1996, *Tarjuma-yi Mān-*

*kutūḥal wa Risāla-yi Rāg-darpan*, Šahāb Sarmadī, ed., New Delhi, Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts - Motilal Banarasidas Publishers. **Hān**, Mīrzā Ibn Faḥr al-Dīn, *šarḥ-i qaṣā'id-i 'urfī*, Ms. Hyderabad, Salar Jung Museum and Library, 1763. **Ivanow**, Wladimir, 1926, *Concise descriptive catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in the Collection of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, Calcutta. **Keshavmurthy**, Prashant, 2013, "The Local Universality of Poetic Pleasure: Sirāj al-Din 'Alī Khān Ārzū and the Speaking Subject", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 50, 1, pp. 27–45. **Minissale**, Gregory, 2006, *Images of Thought: Visuality in Islamic India: 1550-1750*, New Castle, Cambridge Scholars Press. **Pertsch**, Wilhelm, 1888, *Verzeichniss der Persischen Handschriften der königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin*, Berlin. **Powers**, Harold, 1980, "Illustrated inventories of Indian Raga-mala Painting", *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 100, 4, pp. 473 – 493. **Rādūyānī**, Muḥammad ibn 'Umar, 1368/1949, *Tarjumān al-balāḡa*, Istanbul, Istanbul University. **Sachau**, E. - **Éthé**, H., 1889, *Catalogue of the Persian, Turkish, Hindūstānī, and Pushtū Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library*. Oxford, vol. 1. **Speziale**, Fabrizio, 2010, "Les traités persans sur les sciences indiennes", in: D. Hermann - F. Speziale, eds., *Muslim Cultures in the Indo-Iranian World during the Early-Modern and Modern Periods*, Berlin, IFRI - Klaus Schwarz, pp. 403-447.

**Prashant Keshavmurthy**

Originally published: 08 mai 2013

How to quote this article:

Keshavmurthy, Prashant, 2013, "Tuḥfat al-hind", *Perso-Indica. An Analytical Survey of Persian Works on Indian Learned Traditions*, F. Speziale - C. W. Ernst, eds., available at [http://www.perso-indica.net/work/tuhfat\\_al-hind-1](http://www.perso-indica.net/work/tuhfat_al-hind-1).

ISSN: 2267-2753

© 2010 Perso-Indica. All rights reserved