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Description

“Shiʻr” by Abdur Rahman (1873-1954)

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Abstract:

The author of this text, Abdur Rahman, was born on 10th February 1873, in Jaipur and passed away on 30th July 1954, in Karachi. He was a professor who headed the Department of Arabic, Persian, and Urdu at the University of Delhi during the 1920s. He was recognized as a distinct scholar in British India and bestowed with the honorific title of *Shams-ul ʻUlam* in 1933. In 1926, he published a collection of his lectures on the history and theory of Arabic couplet tradition as *Mirʻt-ush-Shiʻr* (The Mirror of Couplet). In the preface to the book, Rahman informs that these “additional university lectures” were given in 1923 and were attended by Khwaja Mohammad Abdul Majeed Khan, a former professor of Persian at St. Stephen’s College. Khan advised Rahman to include couplets from Persian and Urdu in his lectures and publish them. The book was self-published by the author, in keeping with Khan’s advice. In these lectures, Rahman covers the keywords in Eastern poetics such as *shiʻr* (couplet), *alfʻz* (words), *majʻz* (materiality), *mʻʻn* (meaning), *jaʻbʻt* (emotions), *ʻhayʻl* (thought) etc. and through this discussion, explores shared histories of couplet in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu languages. *Mirʻt-ush-Shiʻr* was re-published by the Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy in 1978 in its campaign to re-vitalize important and rare books. Other than *Mirʻt-ush-Shiʻr*, Rahman also authored *Sharʻ-e-Aʻtarʻb* (explanation of astrolabe), *ʻayʻt-e-Auraṅzeb ʻAlaihur Raʻm* (life of Aurangzeb, peace be upon him), and *Tarjumah Ibn-e ʻhaldʻn* (translation of Ibn-e Khaldoon).

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Works cited

Translated from: Rahman, Abdur. “Shiʻr.” *Mirʻt-ush-Shiʻr*, Jayyed Electric Press, Delhi, 1926, pp. 1-17. *Rekhta Ebooks*, <https://www.rekhta.org/ebooks/detail/miraat-us-sheir-abdur-rahman-aleeg-ebooks/>.

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