

Editing and Annotation of “Aql – e- Bidaar” of

Sultan Bahoo

Research Scholar

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1. Introduction:

Sultan Bahoo was a great thinker, writer, philosopher, poet, and a perfect mentor for the seekers of Reality. He was born in Shorkot, District Jhang in 1630 AD. Education and research find immense treasures in the prose and poetry works of Sultan Bahoo. His thought is anchored in the Quran and Sunnah of Prophet (PBUH). His metaphysics has no space for anything which makes a tangent with the way of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Sultan Bahoo draws the description of Sufism from the light of the Quran and Hadith.

Sultan Bahoo has authored 140 books: one poetry work in Punjabi language and all others in the Persian language. Only 30 works are published and available to the public. Manuscripts of more than 100 books are found in the personal libraries in Pakistan and abroad. All his works are rich in the subtleties, secrets, and wisdoms of Islamic mysticism. Works produced and preserved in the personal libraries in Pakistan and India thus have immense to present to the lovers of Persian language, literature, and Sufism.

2. Necessity and importance of research:

Persian language had been running in the socio-cultural and intellectual life of subcontinent, and thus will always remain relevant with it. Many great Sufis and mystics not only belonged to the subcontinent but also wrote their teachings in Persian language. Works of these great men have been earning adoring spaces in the national level and personal libraries in this part of the world. To plunge into the research and study of these remarkable treatises is indeed a worthy undertaking. That is why I have chosen the topic of editing and annotation of “Aql –e-

Bidaar’’: the work of one of the most famous Muslim mystics of the subcontinent – Sultan Bahoo.

3. Research goals:

This research aims to achieve following goals:

1. Introduction to the ancestry and thoughts of Hazrat Sultan Bahoo
2. A review of literary and mystic contributions of Hazrat Sultan Bahoo
- 3 . A discussion on the writing style in Aql- e- Bidaar

4. Problem Statement:

Aql –e- Bidaar is a book written by Sultan Bahoo in the reign of King Aurangzeb Alamgir. The subject of this book is Islamic mysticism. Many topics have been discussed in this book including for instance, description of invitation to Allah Almighty (شرح دعوت), certainty (شرح يقين), meditation (شرح مراقبه) and the true mentor (شرح مرشد کامل).

5. Research Questions:

1. What are the major topics undertaken in Aql –e- Bidaar?
2. What are the Mystic terminologies in Aql –e – Bidaar?
3. What is the writing style in Aql- e- Bidaar?

6. Research Background

Belonging to the Sarwari Qadri order of Sufis, Sultan Bahoo is one of the most famous and insightful personalities of the subcontinent. His thought and works edify one with grasp on the knowledge about his own self, the society, the universe, and God. Familiarity with one's own self reveals that he is built from physical body, reason, and spirit. Entire phenomenal realm manifests itself to one's reason. Faculties lying latent in one's spirit are however capable of breaching the phenomenal realm and eventually making to the Ultimate Reality. Sultan Bahoo's work Aql-e-Bidaar has been translated into Urdu. To unfold the spiritual mysteries, book seeks deeper studies.

7. Research Limitations

This research will examine the available manuscripts of Aql –e- Bidar and will strive to undertake annotations and corrections in this book.

8. Research Methodology

In the current era there are several methods of editing manuscripts but this study will use critical method of editing. In this way, basic version will be compared with other manuscripts for editing, and corrections of mistakes and differences will be provided in the footnotes.

Chapters

1st Chapter: Biography, works and writing style of Sultan Bahoo

Unit 1: Biography of Hazrat Sultan Bahoo.

Unit 2: works and writing style of Hazrat sultan Bahoo.

2nd chapter: editing the text of manuscript “Aql-e- Bidaar”

3rd Chapter: Annotations of Aql –e -Bidaar

- **Conclusion**
- **Lists**
 - List of persons
 - List of books
 - List of places
- **Sources & References**

Note: I have four different manuscripts of Aql-e- Bidaar.

Research will accomplished with the help of those manuscripts