

Chapter – 63

Amir Khusro

(1243 - 1325 AD)

The real name of Amir Khusro is Yaminuddin. Abul Hassan is Kunniya and Khusro is his poetic name. Khusro was born in Delhi, India. His father was Amir Saifuddin, a Turkish ancestor. He realized shortly after the birth of Amir Khusro that this child is a man of extraordinary abilities and the prospects of becoming a saint is evident on his forehead. So, he took him to a saint who fully affirmed the father's feelings and prayed in these words, "O Allah, keep the name of this child alive until the Day of Judgment".

Amir Khusro was raised by his maternal grandfather. His grandfather Emad-ul-Mulk was holding an executive status of the State. As such, Amir Khusro got sufficient opportunity to sit in the royal assemblies. Simultaneously, he passed his ample time with the poets, scholars and intellectuals. Amir Khusro was a born poet. In this regard, the royal ceremonies have greatly helped to enhance his natural abilities. He had learned many languages. He had complete mastery over Persian and Arabic languages. He also learned and specialized in the art of calligraphy and in music. Khusro was so much interested in music that he invented many musical instruments as well. He was also the creator of beautiful literary puzzles. However, the rich poetry of Amir Khusro, especially his everlasting songs, became his main identity. Even today, the Qawali concerts

begin with the "قول" he had created, that starts with the following words:

من كنت مولیٰ فعلیٰ مولیٰ

And the Qawali ends with his "رنگ", that begins with the following words:

آج رنگ ہے اے ماں رنگ ہے ری

Amir Khusro made full use of his poetic abilities to combine different civilizations. On one hand he had integrated Indian music with Turkish and Iranian music, and on the other hand he had also tried to create harmony among the locals by mixing Hindi and Urdu words in his poetry. He had invented many new melodies, that include:

راگ، راگنی، قول، قلابانہ، ترانہ

One of his poems is a collection of Arabic, Persian, Turkish and Hindi words. For this efforts he is called as:

طوطی ہند (The Voice of India)

Certainly, to bring harmony and peace in India, Amir Khusro will be regarded as "*The Peace-Monger*" in India.

Amir Khusro was an extraordinary follower of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya. Khusro had a great regard for his mentor as well as deep love for him. Once, a questioner appeared in the service of Hazrat Nizamuddin and asked for something. At that time he had nothing to give, but keeping this in view that the questioner should not go empty handed so he gave his shoes to him. That fellow left that place and on the way he met Amir Khusro. Amir Khusro asked him that, "Are you coming from Hazrat Mahboob Ilahi (*Nizamuddin Auliya*) because at the moment I am smelling Hazrat Mahboob's divine fragrance from you." The poor man replied, "Yes! I stayed with them for a long time, but I could not find anything except these shoes." Amir Khusro said, "Give me these shoes and take all my wealth in

return." The poor man was surprised and said that you are making fun of me. He said no. Then he took the shoes from him and handed over all his belongings to him. Then he carried these shoes and went to Hazrat Mahboob Ilahi. Looking at his shoes in the hands of Amir Khusro he smiled and said, "Khusro! You bought these shoes very cheaply."

Amir Khusro was a pure-minded man. In his poetry there were secrets of cognizance and truth. He had described religious love and affection in his poetry. The color of Sufism has been prominent in his poetry but as a result it is not correct to call Amir Khusro a mere Sufi. He was a multidimensional poet. In his verses, at one side there was as a melodious color of Roomi, and on the other side he was also having the complexity of Sheikh Razi. When he used to be within the court of kings and praised them, he would seem to be the man of world. And when he used to reach at the service of his religious mentor, the Dervishism seemed to be dominant. Amir Khusro was a music expert and inventor of several compositions. He had so many colors in him that it was not easy to cover his complete personality in words. However, for his individuality, it can be said that he was a "*Versatile Genius*".