



HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF IRAN
AT THE TOMB OF AMIR KHUSRAU DEHLAVI

A Goodwill Visit

Dr. N. H. Ansari

The state visit of Their Imperial Majesties Mohammad Reza Pahlavi Shahanshah Aryamehr and Shahbanou Farah Pahlavi to India (February 2-5, 1978) has undoubtedly infused a new spirit in the age old brotherly and friendly relations between Iran and India. The warm and hearty welcome accorded to Their Imperial Majesties throughout their four day stay in Delhi and Jaipur, is the most convincing proof of the fact that millions of the Indians have deep regards for the royal couple because of the dynamic role they have played to improve the lot of the suffering humanity. Welcoming Their Imperial Majesties, President Sanjiva Reddy said that His Imperial Majesty has played a leading role in promoting and intensifying the mutually beneficial co-operation between our two countries.

In his extempore reply His Imperial Majesty said, 'I come to your country as an old friend.' He praised the great progress made by India during these years.

Their Imperial Majesties were given a civic reception by the people of Delhi in the historic Red Fort built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan, whose wife Arjmand Banu was an Iranian. Welcoming the royal guests, Prime Minister Morarji Desai said that His Imperial Majesty Shahanshah Aryamehr needs no introduction because he is well-known in the sub-continent.

Mr. R.K. Gupta, the Mayor of Delhi, while welcoming Their Imperial Majesties, paid a glowing tribute to Persian language and literature and to the great writers and poets of Iran, who have made such a deep impact on Indian literature and thinking.

Editorial

For a country like India the preservation of its cultural heritage is of vital importance, because it is our cultural wealth that has made us great among the nations of the world. Among the precious gems of the highest cultural value, Persian language enjoys a unique position by virtue of the immense service that this language has rendered to the cause of cultural synthesis and national integration in the Indian sub-continent. As a matter of fact, any serious research about the society, religion, culture or politics of medieval India would be inconclusive without heavily relying on the Persian sources.

With the increase of higher learning in India the study of Persian language is also spreading to more and more institutions. But still there is much more to be done in this regard. Several newly opened universities in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, etc. have not yet introduced the study of Persian even at the B.A. level, although in several of the universities M.A. classes can be started. We earnestly hope that the University Grants Commission and the state governments would take initiative in introducing the study of Persian. This is the only way to preserve our medieval Indian culture and to know the mind of the intellectuals of the day who always expressed themselves through Persian.

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**Sd/-
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