

MEDIEVAL INDIA



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U. N. BALL

Medieval India

*From the beginning of the Arab Invasions to the down-
fall of the Mughals*

BY

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PREFACE

The present volume is an attempt to give a brief and connected account of the life and thoughts of the people of India in the middle ages when the serenity of ancient India was broken by the advent of a new culture. The materials are vast, and it has not been possible for me to explore every source, specially on account of my ignorance of Persian and Arabic. I have relied entirely upon the translations. A list of the books in English which I have utilised besides the large number of papers which appeared in the journals and magazines is given at the end.

My thanks are due to Prof. Susobhan Chandra Sarkar B. A. (Oxon) of the Calcutta University, Dr. J. Van Manen of the Bengal Asiatic Society and Babu Surendra Nath Kumar of the Imperial Library for valuable assistance. My special thanks are due to Babu Karunabindu Biswas but for whose ready help the book would not have seen the light.

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of his heart. His songs are so very popular with the Mahrattas that they can be heard anywhere, among the educated as well as the uneducated. Besides the growth of Chaitanya literature in Bengal we find a new literature connected with Chandi, the conception of God as mother. The songs of Ram Prosad (1718-78), a saint and poet tell us the growth of a deeply devotional spirit in Bengal. All these things indicate that the spirit of the Indians was not crushed under the strong government of the Mughals. The Indian civilization was revived, and one thing more we find in Northern India is the growth of the Ūrdu as the common medium of expression between the Hindus and Musalmans. The Hindus who accepted service under the Moslem rulers, learnt Persian with perfection, and interpreted the spirit of Islam and Islamic literature to their fellow-believers. The industries developed under the patronage of the rulers, and agriculture prospered. The European merchants came to India in expectation of good trade. The conditions of the peasants in villages was not very enviable, but there is evidence to believe that they were not very miserable.

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