

**THE MAQAMAT OF BADI' AL-
ZAMĀN AL-HAMADHANI.
TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC
WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES
HISTORICAL AND GRAMMATICAL**

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The Maqamat of Badi' al-Zamán al-Hamadhani. Translated from the Arabic with an introduction and notes historical and grammatical by W. J. Prendergast

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W. J. PRENDERGAST

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MAQÁMÁT OF BADI' AL-ZAMÁN
AL-HAMADHÁNÍ

TRANSLATED FROM THE ARABIC
WITH AN INTRODUCTION¹
AND
NOTES

HISTORICAL AND GRAMMATICAL

BY

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TO
HIS HIGHNESS
ASAF JAH MUZAFFAR-UL-MÚLK WAL MUMÁLIK,
NIZÁM-ÚL-MÚLK, NIZÁM-ÚD-DAULA NAWAB MIR
SIR OSMAN ALI KHAN, BAHADUR, FATEH JUNG, G.C.S.I.,
NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

THE TRANSLATOR DEDICATES WITH PROFOUND
RESPECT AND DEEP GRATITUDE THIS WORK
WHICH OWES ITS INCEPTION AND COMPLE-
TION TO THE GENEROUS ENCOURAGEMENT
AND GRACIOUS APPRECIATION OF
ORIENTAL STUDIES ALWAYS
SHOWN BY HIS HIGHNESS
AND HIS HIGHNESS'
GOVERNMENT

فَهَنَّاكَ إِن تَرَ مَا يَشِينُ فَوَارِهِ * كَرَمًا وَإِن تَرَ مَا يَزِينُ فَافْتِهِ

(Ḥarīrī)

PREFACE

THIS Translation of the Maqámát of Badí' al-Zamán al-Hama-dhání from the original Arabic with an Introduction and Notes was prepared as my thesis for the Research Degree of Bachelor of Letters, Oxford University, during the years 1913-14, and I now publish it as it was then written.

The original being largely in rhymed prose to which sense is sometimes subordinated to sound, there will necessarily be much in the rendering that will appear insipid and uninteresting to the English reader unacquainted with Arabic; but, as the Maqámát gave the first impulse to a species of composition which has for centuries been regarded as an important branch of *belles lettres*, it is hoped that this first translation of the work into English will be favourably received by Arabic scholars and that students will find it an aid to the understanding of this famous classic.

In the Notes I refer to the following by the names of their respective authors:—

Ibn Khallikan's *Biographical Dictionary* (London, 1841).

Ibn Khaldún's *Prolegomena* (Paris, 1878). Translated by M. G. de Slane.

Nicholson's *Literary History of the Arabs* (London, 1907).

For typographical reasons 'q' instead of 'k' has been used throughout to represent the Arabic ق in transliteration.

My respectful thanks are due to His Highness the Nizam, G.C.S.I., for graciously permitting me to dedicate the book to him. My acknowledgements are also due to His Highness' Government and the Madras School Book and Literary Society for generous grants towards the cost of publication. I also desire to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Rev. Canon E. Sell, D.D., for much valuable advice and help in regard to the arrangement of the Notes and to the Rev. J. Passmore for kindly assisting me in seeing the work through the press.

W. J. P.

September, 1915