

The Dargāh of Shaikh Nasir al-Dīn Raushan-i
Chirāgh-i Dihli, a preliminary study on the
history of dargāhs in medieval India

by Matsuo ARA

1. Prologue — a Methodological Note
2. Shaikh Naṣir al-Dīn and the Tughluq Rulers
3. Various Monuments in and around the Dargāh
4. Development of the Dargāh and Construction of the Monuments
5. Epilogue — Religious Authority and Political Power

No history of the Muslims in medieval India can be complete without reference to the religious and social activities of the Sufi leaders and to the dargāhs in the Sub-continent. In this connection the works done by pioneering scholars, such as the late Professor Mohammad Habib and Professor K.A. Nizami were a great contribution in this field of the medieval history.

Hardly any research have ever been made, however, of a number of monuments still remaining in and around the dargāhs. Those monuments of various kinds (graves, tombs, mailis-khānahs and other religious 'imārats), though having been completely neglected by historians, are the fundamental source materials for revealing historical role of the dargāhs, the centres of the Sufi activities. A survey of the monuments in situ in Delhi and other places in the Sub-continent was carried out in 1971 and 1973. The present article based on this survey is the preliminary paper for clarifying the historical situation and the cultural, social and political significance of the dargāhs.