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LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

Department Of Persian



-: ONLINE CLASS E-CONTENT :-

Topic :- The Samanid

M. A 4th Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 102

History of Persian Lang & Literature of Iran after advent of Islam

By

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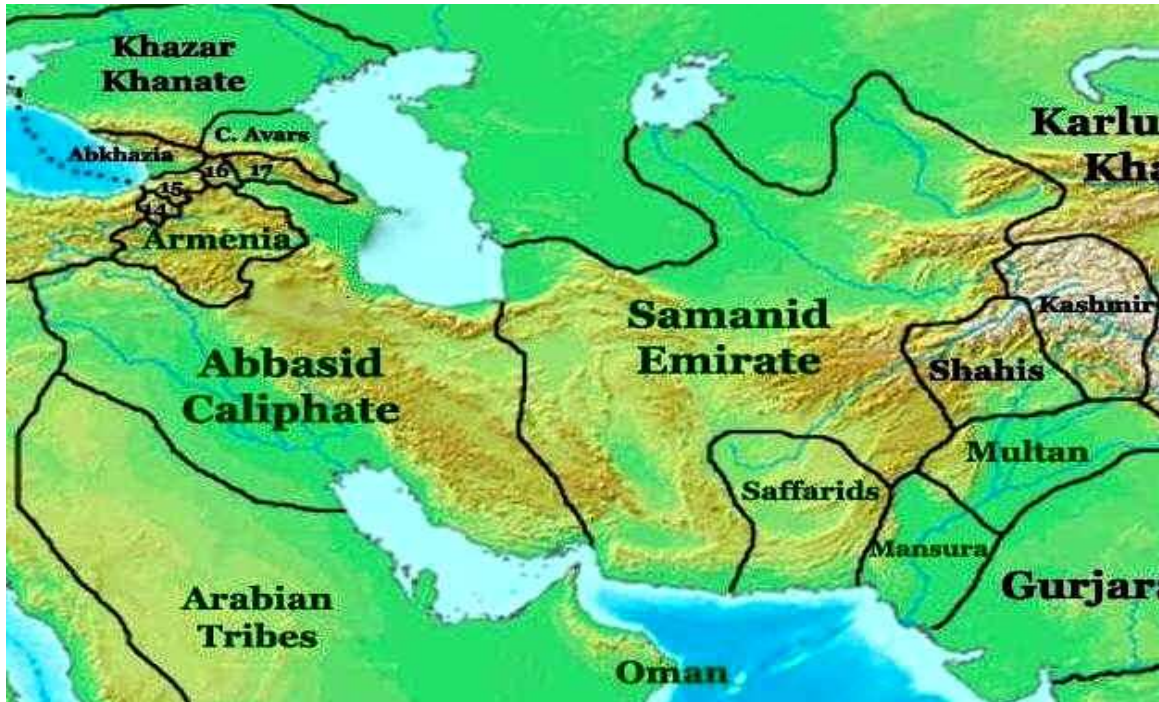
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The Samanids

(868-903 A. D)



The Samanids, who were of Iranian origin by their patronage, gave a strong impetus to the development of Persian literature.

During the rule of these two dynasties i.e. the Tahirids and the Saffarids, many poets like Hanžla Badghisi (d. 220 A. H.), Abbas Mervi d. 822 A. D.), Mahmud Warzaq (d. 844 A.D.), Firoz Mashriqi (d. 905 A.D.) and Abu-Sleek Gurgani appeared and made their valuable contributions in reviving the Persian literature, particularly Persian poetry.

Though Persian poetry, which had adopted the Arabic system of prosody, had sporadically began to flourish with the rise of the Tahirids and the Saffarids in the cast Persia, yet, it was under the Samanids that it reached its considerable extent.

Shibli Namani says that the former were mostly of Arab origin while the Sananids were purely Iranian.



They played dynamic role in preserving and promoting their national literature by patronizing liberally the literary Juminaries of the period.

The Samanid kings like
Nasr bin Ahmad (301-330)
Marsoor Bin Nuh (350-366),
Nuh Bin
Mansoor (366-387), and their
ministers like Abul Fazl Bal'ami
(326/987-8) and Abu Ali
Bal'ami were great patrons of
Art
and men of letters.



Their munificence and patronage of Persian poets and scholars did noble services to the cause of Persian literature in Iran. During this period, the Iranian scholars wrote prose in Arabic and verse in both Arabic and Persian.



Abu Shakur Balkhi (b. 303/915-6) who lived in the earlier part of the Samanid is said to have been the first to compose Masnavi, of which a great use was made in the later centuries for mystical verses.

Fragments of his compositions showing refreshing and simple style are to be found in biographical works of the verses ascribed to him.

Only 192 verses have remained of his whole output.

There is a Masnavi entitled "Afarin Nameh" composed in 333/994-5 A D. that has been attributed to Abu Shakur Balkhi, but only few verses are extant
Another well known poet of the period was Abul Moid]
Balkhi.

He is one of those poets who were associated with the writings of the Shah Nama before Firdausi. He also versified the story of Yusuf and Zulekha in Persian before Firdausi.



With a few exceptions, the Persian poems of the early 9th century A. D. lack in literary merit in comparison with the poetry of the later ages. Their significance lies in their antiquity.

The longest poem belonging to this period is the Danesh-Nama of a certain physician called Maysari.

The best author of the late 9th century was Abul Hasan Shahid Balkhi, who is considered as a great poet and philosopher. He was a learned man and composed verses in all branches of poetry. He knew Arabic well, and one of his Arabic verses has been mentioned in the "Lubabul Albab".

His poetic excellence
has been
recognised by the
famous poets of the
later period.

Rudaki had a high opinion of his work, and
wrote the following Qita
on his death, occurred in 325 A. H/937 A. D.

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