

The Courts of the Deccan Sultanates

In the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, courtliness was crucial to the political and cultural life of the Deccan. Divided between six states competing for territory, resources and skills, the medieval and early modern Deccan was a region of striking ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity. People used multifaceted transregional networks – mercantile, kinship, friendship and intellectual – to move across the Persian-speaking world and to find employment at the Deccan courts. This movement, Emma J. Flatt argues, was facilitated by the existence of a shared courtly disposition. Engagement in courtly skills such as letter writing, perfume making, astrological divination, performing magic, swordfighting and wrestling thus became a route to both worldly success and ethical refinement. Using a diverse range of treatises, chronicles, poetry and letters, Flatt unpicks the ways this challenged networks of acceptable behaviour and knowledge in the Indo-Islamicate courtly world – and challenges the idea of perpetual hostility between Islam and Hinduism in Indian history.

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Emma J. Flatt
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Living Well in the Persian Cosmopolis

Emma J. Flatt

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



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To
Samir, Aiden and Iqbal,
Compagni dei giorni miei,
Sostanze dei sogni miei.

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Note on Transliteration

In this book I follow the transliteration system used by the Library of Congress. Diacritical marks have not been used for names and titles of persons, placenames or technical terms, and only appear in titles of literary works and short phrases and passages quoted from the original language. Technical terms are marked in italics and are explained on first occurrence.

Chronology of the Deccan Sultanate Rulers¹

Bahmani Sultans	Reigned
Ala al-Din Hasan Bahmani	1347–58
Muhammad	1358–75
Ala al-Din Mujahid	1375–8
Daud	1378
Muhammad II	1378–97
Ghiyas al-Din Tahmatan	1397
Shams al-Din Daud II	1397
Taj al-Din Firuz	1397–1422
Shihab al-Din Ahmad	1422–36
Ala al-Din Ahmad II	1436–58
Ala al-Din Humayun	1458–61
Nizam al-Din Ahmad III	1461–3
Shams al-Din Muhammad III	1463–82
Shihab al-Din Mahmud	1482–1518
Ahmad IV	1518–20
Ala al-Din	1520–3
Wali Allah	1523–6
Kalim Allah	1526–38
Adil Shahi Sultans of Bijapur	Reigned
Yusuf Adil	1489–1510
Ismail	1510–34
Ibrahim	1535–58
Ali	1558–80
Ibrahim II	1580–1627
Muhammad	1627–56
Ali II	1656–72
Sikandar	1672–86
Nizam Shahi Sultans of Ahmadnagar	Reigned
Ahmad Nizam	1496–1510
Burhan	1510–53

¹ Compiled from H. K. Sherwani and P. M. Joshi, *History of Medieval Deccan, 1295–1724*, 2 volumes, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, 1974.

Chronology of the Deccan Sultanate Rulers

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Nizam Shahi Sultans of Ahmadnagar	Reigned
Husain	1553–65
Murtaza	1565–88
Miran Husain	1588–9
Ismail	1589–91
Burhan II	1591–5
Ibrahim	1595
Ahmad II	1595
Bahadur	1595–1600
Murtaza II	1600–10
Burhan III	1610–31
Husain III	1631–3
Murtaza III	1633–6
Qutb Shahi Sultans of Golkonda	Reigned
Sultan Quli Qutb	c. 1518–43
Jamshid	1543–50
Subhan	1550
Ibrahim	1550–80
Muhammad Quli	1580–1611
Muhammad	1611–26
Abdullah	1626–72
Abu al-Hasan	1672–87
Imad Shahi Sultans of Berar	Reigned
Fath Allah Imad	c. 1490–1510
Ala al-Din	1510–30
Darya	1530–61
Burhan	1562–74
Barid Shahi Sultans of Bidar	Reigned
Qasim Barid	c. 1489–1504
Amir	1504–43
Ali	1543–80
Ibrahim	1580–7
Amir	1591–1600
Mirza Ali	1600–9
Amir II	1609–19

Abbreviations

Further bibliographic details can be found in the Select Bibliography.

- AA:** Abu al-Fazl Allami, *‘Āin-i Akbarī*
- ARIE:** Annual Report on Indian Epigraphy (New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India, 1968–9)
- BM:** Sayyid Ali Tabatabai, *Burhān-i Ma‘āsir*
- CM:** Nizami Aruzi Samarqandi, *The Chahār Maqālah*
- DH:** Hajji Abarquhi, ‘Dīvān-i Hajjī’
- DT:** Firishta, ‘Dastūr al-aṭibbā’
- DU:** John T. Platts, *A Dictionary of Urdu, Classical Hindi, and English*. London: W. H. Allen & Co., 1884), available online at <https://dsalsrv04.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/platts/>
- EI2:** *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd edn, P. J. Bearman, T. Bianquis, C. E. Bosworth et al. (eds.), (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1960–2005).
- EI3:** *Encyclopaedia of Islam, Three*, ed. K. Fleet, G. Krämer, D. Matringe, J. Nawas and E. Rowson, available online at <https://referenceworks.brillonline.com/browse/encyclopaedia-of-islam-3>
- EIM:** Archaeological Survey of India. *Epigraphia Indo-Moslemica*, (Calcutta: Office of the Superintendent of Govt. Printing, 1907–40, 1948–50)
- FB:** Ruh al-Amin, ‘Falak al-Burūj’
- FS:** ‘Iṣāmī, *Futūhu’s Salāṭīn*
- FNS:** Husain Vaiz Kashifi, *Futūwat nāmah-yi sulṭānī*
- IA(H):** T. W. Haig, ‘The History of the Nizam Shahi Kings of Ahmadnagar’, *Indian Antiquary*
- IA(K):** J. S. King, ‘The History of the Bahmani Dynasty: The Burhan ul Ma’asir and the Tazkarat-ul Muluk’, *Indian Antiquary*
- INS:** Nizam al-Din Mahmud, ‘*‘Itr-i Nauras Shāhī*’

List of Abbreviations

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- KM*: Nimdihi, *Kanz al-ma'ānī*
MI: Mahmud Gavan, 'Manāẓir al-Inshā'
NE: Nasir al-Din Tusi, *The Nasirean Ethics*
NU: Ali Adil Shah, *Nujūm al-'Ulūm*, MS IN2, Chester Beatty Library
NU(W): Ali Adil Shah, *Nujūm al-'Ulūm*, Wellcome Library
OED: *Oxford English Dictionary*, online edition
PED: F. Steingass, *Persian–English Dictionary*
QN: Kaikaus, *The Qābūs-nāmāh*
RI: Mahmud Gawan, *Riyāz al-Inshā'*
RI(H): *Riyāz al-Inshā'*, Habibganj Library
RMP: John Briggs, *History of the Rise of the Mahomedan Power in India*
SS(R): Muhammad Sadiq, 'Shahīd-i Šādiq', British Library, Rieu MS
SS(E): Muhammad Sadiq, 'Shahīd-i Šādiq', British Library, Ethé MS
TF: Firishta, *Tārīkh-e Fereshte*, ed. Mohammad Rezā Nasīrī
TF(NK): Firishta, *Tārīkh-i Firishtah*, Naval Kishore edition
TM(BL): Rafi al-Din Shirazi, 'Tazkirat al-Mulūk', British Library
TM(E): Rafi al-din Shirazi, 'Tazkirat al-Mulūk: History of the Kings', ed. Carl Ernst

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