

JADUNATH SARKAR(PART-1)

M.A. (HISTORY) SEM-3 PAPER CC:10

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INTRODUCTION

Sir Jadunath Sarkar is a star historian of modern India on medieval Indian history, who brilliantly caught the spirit of the age and devoted himself to the neglected field of Indian historiography. Unfortunately, medieval history, in particular, betrayed communal polemics, when Sir Jadunath Sarkar appeared as a great relief on the firmament of Indian historiography with his detailed outlook, balanced judgment, correct perspective and objective outlook. Sarkar is a blessing to Indian historiography, who charms his readers, inspires them and also creates unconsciously interest in the country and its affairs. As a historian his description has romance and pithy at the same time. He is simply peerless as a sober historian. He does not

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eulogize nor does he defend the historical characters. Unlike Romanticists he does not portray Indian heroes in glowing colours . He looks at Shivaji or even Aurangzeb simply as historical figure, and not as Hindu or Muslim- he does not involve himself in the historical drama that his strenuous research unfolds before him. He is careful with the historical facts, and pronounces judgment dispassionately. His only mission was to unearth the unalloyed truth from all possible sources and weave it into an interesting and objective narrative , with a literary flourish of his own. His greatest merit as a historian is that he is nowhere visible with his personal predilections which makes him quite apart from his professional contemporaries.

LIFE AND WORKS

Sir Jadunath Sarkar was born on 10th of December 1870 in a landlord family of Rajshahi District of modern Bangladesh. He was educated at Rajshahi and Calcutta and distinguished himself as a brilliant student. He won the coveted Premchand Roychand fellowship of the Calcutta University and appointed as lecturer in English at Ripon College in 1893 and impressed students by his scholarship. Later on he rose the highest position and adored many chairs of both English and history Departments at many places, such as Calcutta, Patna, Banaras and Cuttack.

(To be continued)