

SYED HASAN ASKARI (PART-1)

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SYED HASAN ASKARI

- Professor Syed Hasan Askari was a distinguished historian and eminent scholar of medieval Indian history, active in his field between 1926 to the year of his death in 1990. He is known for his renowned work in medieval history of Bihar. He was an exceptional researcher and has more than 1500 research papers under his name. Along with being a researcher, Prof. Askari was a scholar, explorer and teacher.

SYED HASAN ASKARI

- He was born in Khujwa, Siwan/Saran District, State of Bihar, India, (April 10th, 1901). He spent his early days in Khujwa and then moved to Muzaffarpur for his graduation. He graduated in 1922 from G.B.B. college, now known as L.S. College. In 1924, he got his M.A. (History) and in 1925 got his B.L. from Patna University. In 1967, Magadh University conferred upon him the degree of D. LITT(HONORIS CAUSA).

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- ▶ 17 years later, in 1984 Patna University conferred the same to him in recognition of his valuable contribution to Medieval Indian History and Culture. Prof. Askari had an exceptional knowledge of original Persian sources and was responsible for many Persian translations and collections.

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His research encompassed a wide range of subjects including medieval Sufism, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals, Bihar's regional history, and other aspects of cultural and social history between the 12th and 18th centuries.

- ▶ Professor Askari gained international recognition as one of the foremost authorities on the mystic literature of Indian Sufis. His knowledge of Bihar & Bengal's medieval and early modern history is almost encyclopedic. Prof. Askari was unrivalled in his knowledge of original

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Persian sources and most learned scholar of Persian manuscripts.

- ▶ He authored more than 250 scholarly articles & research papers, edited historical volumes, and translated Persian manuscripts, which have been published in 20 books and hundreds of journals and proceedings. Professor Askari was awarded Padma Shri in literature by Indian Government & recipient of multiple coveted presidential, national, state and local awards. He was one of the kindest and most informed scholars &

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always regarded him as one of the foremost scholars ever to have studied pre colonial Bihar and Bengal. There are few people who remain steeped in their place of birth yet project an influence across time and space far beyond their domicile. Syed Hasan Askari is one such rare, and laudable, individual. He was a legendary historian and recipient of numerous presidential awards and honors.

(To be Continued)