

Tibet and Tibetan Muslims

Dr. Abu Bakr Amir-uddin Nadwi

تِبْتِ اَدْر تَبْتِي مُسْلِمَان

از ڈاکٹر ابو بکر امیر الدین تبتی سنڌی

Translated from Urdu

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■ Publisher's Note

Tibet and Tiberan Muslims is a translation of the Urdu text originally written by Dr. Abu Bakr Amir-uddin Nadwi. It is the first ever book on Tibet that has been written in Urdu. This book not only serves as an introduction on Tibet prior to Chinese occupation but also highlights the early period of Tibetan history.

The initial section of the book is about the origin of the Tibet, its early kings, the emergence of the Dalai Lamas and so on. The middle section of the book narrates the propagation of Islam in Tibet and illustrates the harmonious co-existence of Buddhist Tibet with the early Muslim immigrants. The author illustrates how Islam as a religion was tolerated and sustained under a Buddhist nation.

The Muslim community of Tibet has not only witnessed the brutal occupation of Tibet by the Communist Chinese but some of them have also undergone the same sufferings as the Tibetans.

We are pleased to publish the translation of Dr. Abu Bakr Amir-uddin Nadwi's book *Tibbat aur Tibbati Musalman*, which narrates an unbiased historical accounts, though with certain variations in dates especially in the section of the early kings. The author has in Part I of this book mentioned that the title of the Dalai Lama was conferred on Gedun Drup, the 1st Dalai Lama. But in Part IV, he mentions that the title was conferred to the 3rd Dalai Lama Sonam Gyatso, which is an accepted historical fact. The readers may come across such conflicting accounts and dates but this book being a translation, we have retained the information presented in the Urdu version. However, we have provided footnotes for the dates that differ with the generally accepted historical dates.

We would first of all like to thank Mr. Gyatsho Tshering the former Director of LTWA for initiating this translation project. We also thank him for his useful suggestions and for introducing us to Prof. James Millard, Department of History, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., who provided us with the introduction to this book. We would like to thank Prof. P. N. Sharma for translating the text from Urdu and Mr. Masood Butt, DIIR, CTA, for attending to our queries. We also would like to thank Ms. Tenzin Sonam and Tashi Yangzom for her assistance in preparing this book.

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30th October, 2004

TIBET AND TIBETAN MUSLIMS

Tibet and Tibetan Muslims by Dr. Abu Bakr Amir-uddin Nadwi is the first ever book on Tibet that has been written in Urdu. The author attempts to illustrate historical accounts of the Muslims community of Tibet.

The initial section of the book is about the origin of the Tibet, its early kings, the emergence of the Dalai Lamas and so on. The middle section of the book narrates the propagation of Islam in Tibet and illustrates the harmonious co-existence of Buddhist Tibet with the early Muslim immigrants.

This book highlights how Islam as a religion was tolerated and sustained under a Buddhist nation. The community of Tibetan Muslims led peaceful and constructive life, and also contributed to the growth of the Tibetan societal development. The strong relationship between Arab and Tibet could be understood from the influence Muslim cultural had in enriching the Tibetan civilization.

The Muslim community of Tibet not only witnessed the brutal occupation of Tibet by the Communist Chinese but some of them have also undergone the same sufferings as the Tibetans. Through this book, Dr. Abu Bakr Amir-uddin Nadwi has made great efforts in highlighting the history, tradition and culture of Tibet and Tibetan Muslims.