

"Sihr-ul-Biyan" is an evergreen and living Urdu Masnavi. It was edited and published in 1805 for the first time in Fort William College, Calcutta. While preparing this edition, Sher Ali Afsos took into consideration the needs and requirements of the English officers and students. We can guess easily from the texts of the Masnavi, discovered later on, that some changes were made just to meet the academic needs of the English students. Hence, it was awfully required to have a comprehensive edition of the Masnavi based on an authentic text. Different texts of this Masnavi were found in different times and the scholars continued their efforts to search original text of Mir Hassan.

Fort William College did not publish autographic text of Mir Hassan but we presume that there might be a text contemporary to Mir Hassan. All later editions from 1844 to 1947 do not reflect clearly that which text is their exemplar. In 2000, seven years ago, a renowned Urdu scholar and outstanding expert of textual criticism, Rashid Hassan Khan has edited "Sihr-ul-Biyan" but it is based on the edition of Fort William College. Therefore it has no authority of any specific contemporary text of Mir Hassan or any other authentic text.

The present edition is based on the text written in 1215 Hijrah. It appeared fourteen years after the death of Mir Hassan. It clearly shows that the edition of 1215 Hijra is based on some contemporary text of Mir Hassan. The very purpose of this research article is to provide the future generation with a comprehensive edition of the Masnavi "Sihr-ul-Biyan" based on an authentic text