

FOREWORD BY
Ranjan Chakrabarti

Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal



Ancient and Medieval Indian Thought

Themes and Traditions

Edited by

Ankit Tomar

Suratha Kumar Malik

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CHAPTER

Ziyauddin Barani: Ideas on Good Sultan and Ideal Polity

Santosh Kumar Mallik and Ramesh Chandra Mahanta

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- Introduction
- The Life Sketch
- Writings of Barani
- Kingship
- Ideal Polity
- Ideal Sultan and His Qualities
- Advices to Sultan
- Conclusion
- Summary
- Points for Discussion

Should the king consider the payment of a few tankas (standard of exchange) by way of jizya (religious taxes) as sufficient justification for their allowing all possible freedom to the infidels to observe and demonstrate all orders and detail of infidelity, to read the misleading literature of their faith, and to propagate their teachings, how could the true religion get the upper hand over other religions, and how could the emblems of Islam be held high? How will the true faith prevail if rulers allow the infidels to keep their temples, adorn their idols, and to make merry during their festivals with beating of drums and dhol, singing and dancing?

—The Rehla, Ishaq Barani, Agha Mahdi Hussain, Oriental Institute (1953, 261)