

The texture, poetics, and the taste of Love and Knowledge
in Amīr Khusraw and Fakhr al-Dīn Irāqī's works

My research casts a probing lens on Islamic mysticism by studying two seminal Persian poets, Fakhr al-Dīn Irāqī (d.1289) and Amir Khusraw (d.1325), who played an influential role in shaping the literary and intellectual culture of the thirteenth-century Indian Subcontinent. In addition to laying the foundations of Indo-Persian poetry, they played a key role in synthesizing Sufism with broader Islamicate philosophy and literature. While Khusraw ostensibly centralized ways of knowing such as wisdom (*ḥikmah*), Irāqī synthesized the philosophical Sufism of Ibn 'Arabī and the Persian literary school of love, also known as *madhab-e-eshq*, that influences South Asian literature and music till the day. Despite their unparalleled literary and intellectual contributions, only a handful of monographs exist on the subject. Shifting the scholarly lens to the literary, my research is an intervention in the current discourse as it seeks to address this lacuna by asking the following: In what ways can lyric poetry through Sufi thought offers a theory of love that resists dominant nationalistic narratives in the Indian subcontinent about what it means to be a Muslim. More specifically, by bringing these two voices in conjunction, I ask: What is Khusraw and Irāqī's conceptualization of love? What theories of knowledge and practices of ethical self-cultivation are tied to this? And finally, how does lyric shape, morph, and transgress the self?