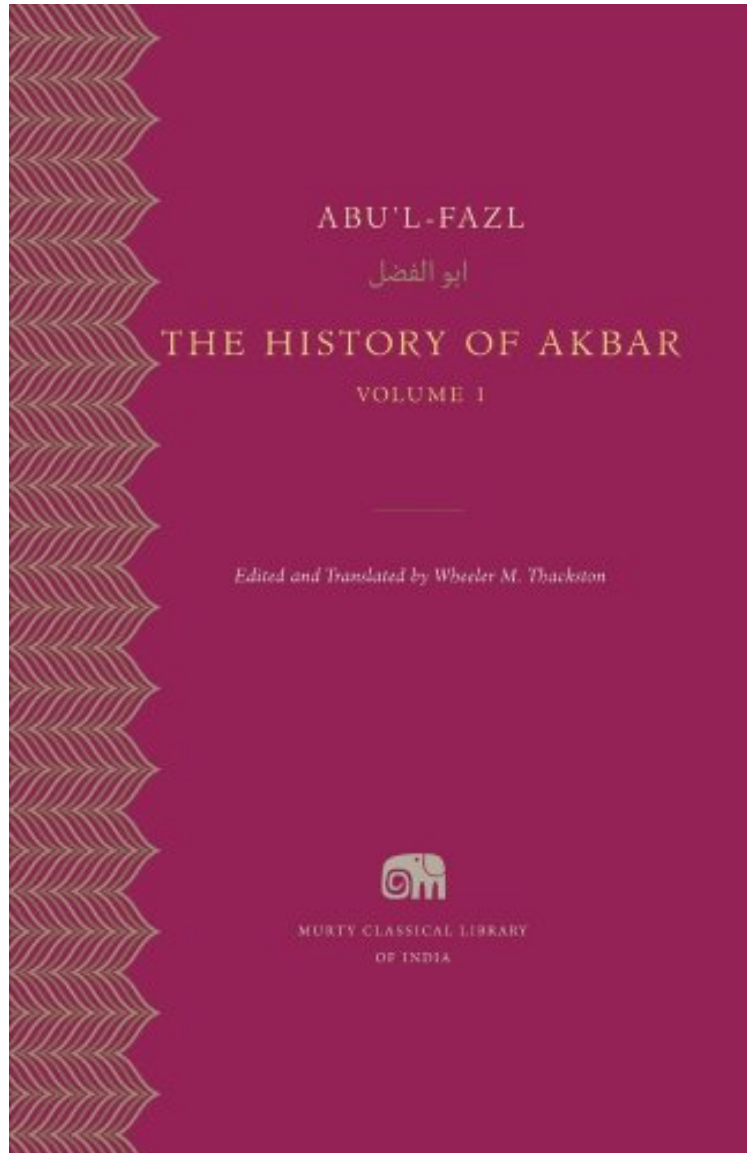


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The History of Akbar, Volume 1 (Murty Classical Library of India)

Abu'l-Fazl

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Abu'l-Fazl : The History of Akbar, Volume 1 (Murty Classical Library of India) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of Akbar, Volume 1 (Murty Classical Library of India):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Akbar is considered the greatest Mughal emperor of all By Umar Tosheeb Akbar is considered the greatest Mughal emperor of all. This book is the volume 1 of his biography by Abu'L-

Fazl. Considering the time it was written, during 16th-17th century, for modern readers the lavish praises might seem unusual. However, given the time it was written in, it's not unusual. The book provides good insight into early Mughal India. For example, when Akbar's grandfather settled in Agra, after conquering Northern India, many of the nobles and soldiers wanted to go back to Central Asia because climate in India was too hot. The first volume of the book actually does not talk much about Akbar, but about his ancestors, especially his father Humayun and grandfather Babur. Babur laid the foundation of Mughal empire in India after struggling to hold on to his ancestral lands. The interesting thing about the early Mughal period was that how fluid movement of people was between Central Asia and North India. Overall, a good book with lots of information on early Mughal India. My guess is that volume II would be much better. This volume does not exclusively focus on Akbar, but sets the stage for more to come. If you are someone who can read Persian, this book has both the original Persian text, with the English translation. 40 of 42 people found the following review helpful. A book to cherish By Sam A. Mawn-Mahlau Abu'l-Fazl can lay it on thick. The man is a master sycophant, a professional kowtowner, a veritable Homer of the homage. In this work, he exalts his patron, the third emperor of the Mughal dynasty, Akbar, telling us of Akbar's extra-ordinariness in every way, from the portents of his birth to the extraordinary accomplishments of his childhood to the glory of his reign (though, this being volume 1, most of that glory will have to wait). But this encomium is not just floriferous and entertaining; it is also fascinating. For many, the Indian subcontinent in the Elizabethan age is an exotic thought, a distant and unfamiliar world to try to imagine. Yet the empire of Akbar, told to us by Abu'l-Fazl, is in many ways a not unfamiliar world. The characters are lively, interesting, and understandable; they live in a sophisticated, urban and literary culture. The empire building zeal and craft of the Emperor may well exceed the skill and enthusiasm of the British imperialists who would dismantle the empire over two hundred years later. And Abu'l-Fazl is as comfortable talking about Socrates and Plato as he is talking about Muhammad; his world is really not so exotic. While he may lay the flattery on a bit heavily to justify his courtly sinecure, Abu'l-Fazl can also be very revealing about the world he and Akbar inhabit, and very disarming in his accessibility. The Murty Classical Library is a new venture, and this is among their first volumes. It is an extraordinary offering in many ways. The book is beautiful, with an elegant design and a pleasing heft to it. The presence of the printing in the original is not just scholarly, it is lovely and helps to set the feeling that we are reading something from that classical Persianate world. The introductory material is helpful and well-written. I'm not in a position to judge the quality of the translation, but the English version is readable but still literary, reminiscent in many ways of the always engaging Dick Davis. This is a book to cherish. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. beautifully made rare translations By Kindle Customer These books are beautifully made rare translations. I'm happy to have added the first five to my library and hope to continue to add them all as they're released.

Akbarnama, or The History of Akbar, by Abul-Fazl (d. 1602), is one of the most important works of Indo-Persian history and a touchstone of prose artistry. Marking a high point in a long, rich tradition of Persian historical writing, it served as a model for historians throughout the Persianate world. The work is at once a biography of the Mughal emperor Akbar (r. 1556-1605) that includes descriptions of his political and martial feats and cultural achievements, and a chronicle of sixteenth-century India. The first volume details the birth of Akbar, his illustrious genealogy, and in particular the lives and exploits of his grandfather, Babur, and his father, Humayun, who laid the foundations of the Mughal Empire. The Persian text, presented in the Naskh script, is based on a careful reassessment of the primary sources. The Murty Classical Library of India makes available original texts and modern English translations of the masterpieces of literature and thought from across the whole spectrum of Indic languages over the past two millennia in the most authoritative and accessible formats on offer anywhere.

The [Murty Classical Library of India] aims to make Indian literature accessible to a wide audience, so that ever larger circles of individuals can discover the history, philosophy, and drama of India. As the volume of this library that I read, The History of Akbar (Volume 1) proved, the Murty Library has succeeded in its goal of sharing valuable knowledge and providing interesting insights on India. This particular volume provides valuable insight into both the history and historiography of the Mughals. (Akhilesh Pillalamarri The Diplomat 2015-01-30) At a time when Hindutva historians are eager to distort the history of Muslim invasions in order to deepen religious cleavages and consolidate vote banks, [Abul-Fazl's] elaboration of Akbar's legacy as a tolerant Muslim ruler of a non-Muslim majority is an important reminder of how Indian society has evolved. (Pragya Tiwari India at LSE blog) We can only welcome an undertaking like the Murty Classical Library of India, which intends to inject fresh blood directly into the circulatory system of the English language. Any intelligent reader cannot fail to be favorably impressed in the presence of the variegated offerings of the series' first titles. The Murty Classical Library offers a surprising array of texts that are in any case capable of broadening the all-too-restricted horizons of the average Western reader. (Roberto Calasso New York of Books 2015-09-24) About the Author Wheeler M. Thackston is retired Professor of the Practice in Persian and Other Near Eastern Languages at Harvard University.