

Mystery shrouds over the birth of Lalan Shah and it is difficult to learn precisely the details of his life; they were not written in any concocted biography excepting two old records one published by one Abdul Wali a sub-registrar of Harinakundu P.S. and subdivision Jhenidah, Dist. Jessore in an article entitled 'On some curious Tenets and Practices of certain class of Fakirs in Bengal in the Journal of the Anthropological Society of Bombay—1900 vol. V No. 4 wherein it was written... Another renowned and most melodious versifier whose dhuvas are the rage of the lower classes and sung by beatman and others was far famed Lalan Shah. He was a disciple of Seraf Shah and both were born at the village Harishpur subdivision Jhenidah Dist. Jessore. Having travelled long and made pilgrimages to Jag-

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Dr. Anwarul Karim

Manah and other shrines and met with all sorts of devotees he at last settled at mauza Siriva near subdivisional head quarters of Kushtia (Nadiva). Here he lived, feasted, sang and worshipped and was known as Kayastha and where he died some ten years ago. His disciples are many and his songs are numerous. This article of Mr. Abdul Wali was read on 03.9.1898 at the meeting of the Anthropological Society of Bombay. Mr. Abdul Wali was a scholar of repute and on his death the following obituary reference was made by the General Secretary of the Asiatic Society Mr. Johan Van Manan. The obituary reference was published in the proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for 1928 pp. Clixiv—The late Khan Sahib Abdul

Wali was at the time of his death on the 24th of November 1928 one of the senior members of the society, having joined in the year 1894, 32 years before, as a mofassil member. In 1911 he came to Calcutta where he resided until his death. He served in the Registration Department, in Bengal for more than 30 years in various capacities. From early youth he was fond of study and he was especially interested in antiquarian research and Indian history. During the last 25 years he tributed about 20 papers to the Society's journal, his last contributions dating from shortly before his death at the age of 71. He also published a number of pamphlets and booklets on Islamic subjects at his own cost. Persian was his chief love and he prepared a number of translations from Persian into English and from English into Persian. A few contributions in English and continental Journals brought his name more prominently before Western scholars and he corresponded with a number of European Orientalists. The other reference on Lalan was published in a fortnightly Journal 'Hita-kafi' of 1297 B.S. (1890 A.D.) which came out from Lahini-para, Kushtia and it was possibly the oldest record published so far. It was an article on the death of Lalan Fakir. The paper published two other articles on different topics. This included 'Zeminder' and 'Income Tax'. These articles did not bear the name of the writers. Possibly the persons engaged in editing of the paper might have written these articles. The paper was first published in 1297 B.S. (April, 1890) by Sree Devanath Biswas of Lahini-para and printed at Mahurajath Press.