

NO. VII.

A MASNAWI REGARDING THE DEATH OF MIRZA FAIZO'S CHIPPAK.*

Alas ! alas !† by the hand of fate,
 In the aviaries now has this grief arisen ;
 From its head every hawk has thrown off its hood,‡
 And every falcon put on a blackdress.§
 The hearts of the birds are half dead from grief,
 And sparrow-hawks, falcons and hawks have become orphans.||
 Whether tatehris, kuhas, or besarās,¶
 Fate has turned against them all at once in this same way.**
 If they wish to hunt the tomtit,
 They have not even this much power of seizing left in their claws.
 On beholding a number of puddas,†† they are afraid of them ;
 They play tricks even with the butterfly.‡‡
 The tarmati§§ before the gnat is weak,
 And, in the sight of insects, the dhоти||| even is contemptible.
 Alas ! do not now ask the cause of this.
 What shall I tell you O friends ? It is a calamity,
 For the chippak of Mirza Faizo has died,
 And made the aviary of the world depopulated.
 How vastly inconsiderate is the sky (fate),
 Alas ! it has destroyed such a precious falcon.
 The conduct of the heavens is very unjust ;
 Look ! what an injustice is this, O friends !
 That the Mirza should be so mournful and the birds so happy,
 And the nests of the feathered tribe so thickly populated ;
 Behold the jay how gay it is,

* The chippak is a sparrow-hawk, but this was a wonderful specimen, for it hunted not only small birds, but even large ones.

† Lit, "sighs and lamentations."

‡ "Sir se kulah phenkna" is an act generally performed in time of mourning ; the play is, that the hawks which have a kulah (hood) by nature, they even, following the example of men, throwing it off, commenced to grieve.

§ The colour of the falcon is very dark, almost black, and this is the black dress, or mourning, here referred to.

|| All these birds are supposed to have looked on the chippak as their mā bāp, as the natives say, that is, as their mother and father, and, in consequence of its death, they are supposed to have become orphans.

¶ These are the various kind of hawks, and are mentioned by the poet, as relatives of the chippak.

** That is to say, leave them without any patron or guardian.

†† The pidda is an exceedingly small bird, and, in Oordoo, the secondary meaning of it is "a very small creature, contemptible both in mind and body."

‡‡ The meaning of this line is, that they had become so powerless, that they dared not attack even the butterfly, but were obliged to resort to all sorts of stratagems and deceits to catch it. "Wail gānthnā, or karnā" is an idiom signifying "to play tricks, make excuses, pretences, &c."

§§ The tarmati is a kind of hawk.

||| The dhоти is a species of falcon, the female of which is called besarā.

