

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my profound gratitude to Prof. Dr. Henk J. M. Bos for accepting the supervision of my PhD dissertation and for his unfailing encouragement and support throughout the period of my research for the present work. I am also grateful to Prof. Dr. Jan P. Hogendijk without whose scientific, practical and spiritual support, I would never have been able to carry out this job. I also thank Prof. E. S. Kennedy (Princeton University), a leading scholar in the history of Islamic exact sciences for his precious scientific support especially in the terminology of Islamic astronomy. Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin (Director of the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt) offered me the opportunity to work on my PhD dissertation at his Institute during the period June-August 2005. I greatly appreciate this kind gesture which was decisive for my work and I will always remember the ready assistance I received from colleagues at his Institute. He also helped me in preparing some manuscript copies which were vital for my work. I sincerely thank Dr. Hushang A'lam (Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, Tehran) and Dr. Benno van Dalen (Institute for the History of Science, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt) who supported me with their scholarly comments in preparing the translation and commentary of Kūshyār's *zīj*.

Prof. Gregg De Young (American University of Cairo) kindly helped me with the difficult task of preparing manuscript copies from Egypt and I am grateful to him for his arduous efforts. I owe a lot to the late Mr. Abu'l-Qasem Qurbani, a pioneering figure in the studies of the history of mathematics and astronomy in Iran, who always encouraged me in my work and provided me with a copy of one of the Istanbul manuscripts. The memory of him will always remain alive in our hearts and in all our works. I also wish to thank Prof. Dr. E. Ihsanoğlu (IRCICA, Istanbul), Prof. Michio Yano (Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan), Dr. Gleb Mikhailov (Russia), Mr. M. Mar'ashi Najafi (Qum, Iran), Mr. A. Hadzad (Germany) and Mr. S. Farrokh Seresht (The Netherlands) for their assistance in preparing the manuscript copies.

I thank my dear friends, Mr. Claudio Cecotti (Italy) and Mr. Hüseyin Şen (the Netherlands), who have been very helpful with the text processing and computer work. My Institute, Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation (Tehran) has also been most supportive and encouraging of my work. I especially wish to thank Mr. Hassan Taromi (Scientific Vice Director) for his full and friendly cooperation and my colleagues Mr. A. Sobut and Dr. S. 'Udi who supported me with their expert knowledge of the Arabic language. Last but not the least, I want to express my heart-felt gratitude to my mother Mahboob (Effat) to whom I owe all my achievements, and to my wife Nepton who has supported me throughout with compassion and admirable patience, and to whom I dedicate this thesis.

Mohammad Bagheri  
Wassenaar (The Netherlands), October 2006

