Introduction

ṣad jalvah rū bah rū hai jo mizhgāñ uṭhā'īye
ṭāqat kahāñ kih dīd kā iḥsāñ uṭhā'īye

There are a hundred splendors, face to face,
if you'd just lift your eyelids.
Where is that strength
to lift the vision's favor?

ĠHĀLIB

The peer-reviewed *Journal of Urdu Studies* sets the stage for new conversations on Urdu and its attendant cultures across regions and eras. Oriented towards redressing the widely perceived chasm between area and disciplinary studies, the journal is deliberately heterogenous in the methodological, generational, and geographic subject-positions of its authorship. This inclusive stance also renders the journal acutely sensitive to issues of marginalization—whether they stem from nationalist and colonial biases or from prejudices based on gender, sexuality, and religion. It is my hope that this invigorating blend of diverse methodologies and disciplines will open new vistas on the aesthetic calibration and cultural dynamism of Urdu's many worlds.

The journal's conception and execution would not have been possible without the encouragement and critical feedback of Asad Q. Ahmed, Kamran Asdar Ali, Munis Faruqui, Ateeb Gul, Kathy van Vliet, the Berkeley Urdu Initiative, the South Asia Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Gurmani Center of Literature and Languages at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

Two valued supporters of the journal, Asif Farrukhi and Mujtaba Hussain, have passed away since the publication of the journal's first issue in January 2020. Both of them enriched Urdu studies tremendously.

Daisy Rockwell has generously designed the image for the journal's cover. Liz Gobbo brilliantly copyedited the manuscript. The journal's Associate Editors,

Asiya Alam, Gregory Maxwell Bruce, Pasha Khan, and Tahira Naqvi, dedicated numerous hours to ensure the journal meets the highest academic standards. I must single out Gregory Maxwell Bruce for his infectious love of Urdu and for being instrumental at every stage of the journal's exciting journey.

Sincerely,

Syed Akbar Hyder
Editor-in-Chief