

## CHAPTER - VII

### DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF SULTAN MUZAFFAR SHĀH

#### The Family of Sultān Mahmūd :-

Sultān Mahmūd had four sons, Muḥammad Kālā was the eldest and his mother Rani Rupanjarī died during the lifetime of the Sultān. Abākḥān, the second son, was give poison, at the orders of the Sultān, it is said for his misdeeds. Prince Aḥmad Khān was the third son, whom Khudāwand Khān had attempted to place on the throne in 1480. His complicity in the plot appears to have cost him the throne, since he was eventually superseded. Probably Prince Aḥmad died as a prisoner or was executed, for after this conspiracy we do not hear about him.<sup>1</sup> Khalīl Khān, the only remaining son, succeeded him with the title of Muzaffar Shāh II.

#### Birth of Muzaffar Shāh :-

Khalīl Khān (later Muzaffar Shāh II) was, the youngest son of Sultān Mahmūd. His mother, Rani Hirabai, was a daughter of Rana Naga (Nagji) a Rajput chief of the Mahi Khantha.<sup>2</sup>

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1. MS - Trans (F), pp. 89-90.

2. Ibid, TA - Trans (De) III, pp. 292, 293.

Khalīl Khān was born after dawn on Wednesday Sha'ban 6, 880/December 6, 1475. The word "Farrukh" meaning the auspicious or happy gives this date.<sup>3</sup>

We are further informed by the chroniclers that the young prince lost his mother on the fourth or fifth day after his birth, and so Sultān Mahmūd entrusted the infant to his step mother, Hansbai, the dowager queen for bringing up, who is said to have keenly desired it.<sup>4</sup>

His education and varied interests :-

We are not informed of the arrangement made for the education of the young prince by his father.

The author of Muzaffar Shāhī gives an idea of the interest of the young prince in different branches of knowledge. It is said that he liked art, literature, and music. He was an expert in calligraphy for he used to send a copy of Qurān, written by his own hand at least once a year to Mecca.<sup>5</sup> It seems, he also spent much of his time

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3. MS - Trans (F) pp.89-90 TA - Trans (De), III p.292-293.

4. MS - Trans (F) pp. 89-90 TA - Trans (De) III, pp.292-293 Many stories are related about Muzaffar Shāh's childhood. For example, the Prince had no taste for wine. Once it was given as a medicine to him and he vomitted the same.

5. Nadvi, Muzaffar Shahi (Guj) (Introduction)

in learning traditions and other sciences. He took up carpentry as a hobby and prepared fine pieces. He was also skilled in arms.

This is what we are told about the qualities of the young prince though eulogies lavished on the qualities of the young prince seem rather too good to be true.

#### Appointments :-

Khalīl Khān's political career began at the age of eleven, when in 1484, he was entrusted with Junagadh by Sultan Mahmūd, which was formerly held by the Sultān himself. The reason for this appointment seems to be that the Sultan, was busy in constructing his new capital at Champaner and so he appointed the Prince to Junagadh.

The appointment of the Prince, as early as 1484, in Sorath is significant. By this time, Sultān Mahmūd had lost all of his elder sons, and therefore, it was necessary for him to train his youngest son in state craft. Secondly, it was necessary to appoint a trusted lieutenant there, because this province was newly conquered and needed consolidation and so for the efficient and able administration of Saurashtra, a strong hold over Junagadh was necessary. Hence the Sultān preferred his young son to hold this chance and gain his first experience in what was to be his future life.

The Persian chroniclers are silent about the length of Khalīl Khān's stay in Saurashtra. We next hear of him in 917/1507 then he was holding Baroda and was thirty three years old, the father of three sons, viz. Sikandar Khān, Latīf <sup>K</sup>Khān and Bahādur Khān.

We are told by the historians that during Khalīl Khān's stay at Baroda, his father received no complaints regarding his rule.

The author of Mā'athir-i-Mahmūd Shāhī writes, "Sulṭān Mahmūd loved his son for his refined manners, bravery and administrative capacity. He summoned the noble and the vassals of the Sulṭanate in the Durbar, where Abu-Nasir Sulṭān Muẓaffar Shāh was conferred upon the Prince and he was honoured with the sword and Khilaf. Those present recognised the title and also Khalīl Khān's claim to succeed Sulṭān Mahmūd Shāh. This ceremony took place in 912/1506." <sup>6</sup>

His refined manners, steady character and love for the company of scholars, helped him in gaining the affection of the Sulṭān. It was in Baroda that he lived and subsequently ascended the throne there.

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6. MMS - (Hak. Bey, Lib. Madina), MSS - Fol. 54-59.

Ascends the throne :-

As noted above, Sultān Mahmūd died after Sunset on Ramadān 2,917/November 22,1511. He was buried in Sarkhīz below the tomb of Shaikh Ahmad Khattu Ganj Bakhsh.

Immediately on the day following Khalīl Khān was proclaimed Sultan with the title of Muzaffar Shāh II. He was then in his thirty seventh year. <sup>7</sup>

After his accession, he conferred titles and jagirs on his father's nobles and on his own favourite ones. His favourite nobles like Rashīd-ul-Mulk, Khush Qadam and Burhān-ul-Mulk were given the titles of Khudāwand Khān, Mukhalis Khān and Mansur Khān respectively. The other nobles Malik Qutub, Malik Mubāarak and Malik Shāh were rewarded with the titles of Azd-ul-Mulk, Iftihār Khān and Mubāriz-ul-Mulk. Mubāriz-ul-Mulk was appointed as waẓīr in place of Malik Bahā-ud-dīn Ikhtiyār-ul-Mulk. This post had been held by Malik Bahā-ud-dīn during the last years of Sultan Mahmūd's reign. <sup>8</sup>

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7. Sikandar writes that he ascended throne at the age of twenty seven, which is wrong according to the year of his birth. He was born in A.H. 880/1475 and accordingly he ascended the throne at the age of thirty seven lunar years - MS - Trans (F) pp.88,91.

8. MS - Trans (F) pp. 89-91.

Persian Mission in Gujarat :-

The control of Gujarat over strategic centres like Div and also Dwarka and Shankhodhar had affected Persia. These places dominated the sea approaches to Persia and influenced entry into that kingdom, and thereby could jeopardise its trade and commerce.

Further the advent of the Portuguese was posing a new danger to the two kingdoms. To negotiate on these matters of common interest, the Persian ruler Shāh Ismā'īl Mirzā Safavī sent a mission to the court of Sultān Mahmūd.

The Persian mission, led by Yādgār Beg Qazalbash, reached Gujarat in 917/1511.<sup>9</sup> According to Hājī Dabīr the total number of men in the mission, including the servants, were five hundred,<sup>10</sup> but Sikandar says that it consisted of forty men. Probably the officials in the mission numbered forty while the rest were retainers and the like.<sup>11</sup>

At this time Sultān Mahmūd Shah was on his death

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9. MS - Trans (F) pp. 92-93.

10. An Arabic history of Gujarat P I, ed. Ross p. 98

11. MS - Trans (F) pp. 92-93.

bed and they had to wait for a long time outside Ahmedabad.<sup>12</sup> After the accession of Muzaffar Shāh, Malik Sharq Hamīd-ul-Mulk and Qutb-ul-Mulk were ordered to escort the Persian mission with due honours to the court.

The Mission brought with it, as presents a turquoise cup of great value, a chest full of jewels and thirty Iranian horses and presented them to the Sultan.

Sultān Muzaffar, together with the mission left Ahmedabad and halted at Baroda, on his way to Champaner.

#### The Prince of Malwa in Gujarat :-

At Baroda, the Sultān also received Muḥammad bin Nāsir-ud-dīn Khaljī who had escaped from Malwa and had sought his help. He was promised to help at the end of rainy season. Meanwhile he was asked to stay.

#### Conflict with Prince's men and envoy's suite :-

One day for some reasons persons belonging to the entourage of the two missions, the Prince's men and the envoy's suite came into conflict.

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12. Nizām-ud-dīn writes that at this time Mahmūd was breathing his last. When the Sultān was informed about their arrival he did not wish to meet them because they were Shīāhs cf. TA - Trans (De) III p.280.

The Persian chroniclers differ about the real cause of this conflict. According to Sikandar, the Prince of Malwa had a diamond and the Persian envoy wanted to purchase it. The Prince was not willing to part with it and this led to ill-feelings between them.<sup>13</sup>

Nizām-ud-dīn states that the Prince of Malwa and the Persian mission were accommodated in the adjacent quarters in the capital and the servants of both the parties for reasons unknown had quarrelled.<sup>14</sup>

Hājī Dabīr writes that Muḥammad Ṣāhib Khān once entered the residence of Persian mission and the envoy had passed a remark on the Prince's handsomeness. Ṣāhib Khan at this was annoyed and attacked the envoy with his sword. Later the Muslim population of Champaner on hearing of this incident rushed to the help of the Malwa Prince.<sup>15</sup> This appears to have been due to the fact that the Prince was a Sunni while the Persians were Shī'ahs.

13. MS - Trans (F) pp. 92-94, also cf. TF (Text) IV, II. p. 406.

14. TA - Trans (De) III pp. 293-294

15. Ross Denison E., An Arabic history of Gujarat P - I, p. 98.



From the above account it is clear that the Persian envoy and his men were Shīāhs and hence the Sunnīs were against them. This may account for the popular feeling against them. Moreover, it is possible that the Persian envoy had made some vulgar gestures and this annoyed S. Āhib Khān. The diamond story may also be taken into account for ill-feelings between them.

Portuguese account for the Persian embassy :-

The accounts of the Persian chroniclers about the Persian embassy is supplemented by Portuguese account of Albuquerque in "Commentaries", where the ambassador's visit is mentioned in connection with the activities of Albuquerque in the Indian ocean during the year 1513. Therefore, we may presume that the Persian envoy who arrived in Gujarat during the last days of the reign of Sultān Mahmūd made a fairly prolonged stay of about two years for it is not very likely that a fresh embassy had been sent by the Persian ruler to the court of Muzaffar Shāh II.<sup>16</sup>

"Shāh Ismāīl from Persia sent two ambassadors to the kings of Cambay and of Bijapur, both of them being equipped with a hundred saddle horses, very richly furnished tents for their lodgings and services of <sup>S</sup> silver

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16. Commissariat M.S. History of Gujarat I, p. 286.

plate for their tables. The instructions that they carried were to the effect that these Indian rulers should be asked to accept Ismā'īl's cap and cause the special book of prayer which he used to be read in the mosque," 17

Albuquerque, in his "Commentaries" has mentioned the presence of the Prince of Mandu in the capital of Gujarat and then what followed, be given in the words of "Commentaries".

"The Ambassador fell into conversation with this young man when he was at court and frequently invited him to an evening banquet, and it chanced that one night when they were alone after the banquet was over, the ambassador laid hold of him and treated him rudely (for these Ismā'īlites are more given to this if report be true, than any other Moors in those parts of India). The young man began to cry out, and immediately all his people ran to help their master. The ambassador when he perceived the uproar, pushed the young man out, and barricaded himself in some house. When the news of all this reached the king of Cambay, he sent all his guards and put down the rioting, but not before seventy or eighty people on one side or other had lost their lives. The son of the Mandu, ashamed of what had taken place, went away to the Rajputs

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17. Commentaries - IV, pp. 83-84.

(Rajs Butos), who border on his realms, and they offered him assistance against the rebel brother." <sup>18</sup>

Departure of the embassy :-

The Sultān was annoyed at the occurrence in his capital and ordered the Persian envoy to leave giving him to understand that his mission had failed. Among the presents that were given to envoy for the Persian king, were two elephants, a genda or rhinoceros and other articles in return for the gifts which he had brought.

The envoy embarked on a vessel, which was on the point of sailing for Hormuz, and on his request, the officers at Surat, got him another one also in which they put the <sup>e</sup>elephants, the rhinoceros and the baggage. The Portuguese account states that the officers at Surat purposely put a faulty mast into the ship, with the result that it broke after proceeding a little distance from Surat, thus making it return to Surat. The envoy on reaching his country was displeased at this news.

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18. Commentaries IV, pp. 83-84.