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History of the Rise of the
Mahomedan Power
in
India

Till the Year A.D. 1612.

Translated from the
Original Persian of
Mahomed Kasim Ferishtā.

by
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Lieutenant-Colonel in the Madras Army.

To which is added
An Account of the Conquest,

<i>by the Kings of Hyderabad</i> Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı	
İslâm Araştırmaları Merkezi Kütüphanesi	
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Imadsahiler

661-664

Chapter III.
Continued
Section V.

History of the Dynasty of the
Kings of Berar,
Entitled
Imad Shahy.

FUTTEH OOLLA IMAD SHAH

His origin— raised to the rank of a noble—is created ruler of the province of Berar—assumes independence from the court of Bidur— his death.

The first person who became distinguished in this family was descended from the Canarese infidels of Beejanuggur. Having been taken prisoner in the wars with that country, when a boy, he was admitted among the body-guard of Khan Jehan, the commander-in-chief, and governor of Berar. As he grew up he discovered abilities and courage, which attracted the notice of his master, who ultimately became so much attached to him, that he nominated him to offices of distinction. After the death of Khan Jehan, he repaired to the court at Mahomedabad Bidur, and in the reign of Mahomed Shah Bahmuny, through the influence of Khwaja Mahmood Gawan, he received the title of Imadool-Moolk, and was subsequently raised to the office of commander of the forces in Berar.

In the year 890, he declared his independence ; shortly after which he died, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

A.H. 890.
A.D. 1484.



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HISTORY OF ISLAM

(Classical Period 1206–1900 C.E.)

Volume II

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MADDE YAYINLANDIKTAN
SONRA GELEN DOKÜMAN

Imad Shahi

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Berar

1490-1574 C.E.

Fateh Ullah Imad Shah

The Imad Shahi rule in Berar was founded by Fateh Ullah Imad Shah. He was originally in the service of the Bahmanids and was the Governor of Berar. When the Bahmanid State disintegrated, Fateh Ullah Shah declared his independence in 1490 C.E. when Berar seceded from the Bahmanid empire. He established his capital at Ellichpur, and embellished it with some fine buildings. He died in 1512 C.E. after a beneficent rule spread over twentytwo years.

Alauddin Imad Shah

Fateh Ullah Imad Shah was succeeded by his son Alauddin Imad Shah. At the outset of his reign he was involved in conflict with the neighbouring state of Ahmad Nagar. The town of Pathri in Berar, north of Gondwana was the ancestral home of the Nizam Shahi rulers of Ahmad Nagar. On sentimental grounds Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmad Nagar asked Alauddin Imad Shah to cede this town to Ahmad Nagar. Alauddin refused to accede to the demand. Thereupon Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmad Nagar invaded Berar in 1518 C.E. and captured Pathri. Alauddin Imad Shah chose to remain quiet. In 1525 C.E. Alauddin joined the alliance of Ahmad Nagar and Bidar against Bijapur. He had hoped that by such alliance, Ahmad Nagar would restore Pathri to Berar. This hope was belied, and in 1527 C.E. there was a shift in alliance. The ruler of Bijapur married his younger sister to Alauddin, and as a consequence Berar allied itself with Bijapur against Ahmad Nagar. Bijapur and Berar invaded Ahmad Nagar and recaptured Pathri. Thereafter Ahmad Nagar invaded Berar and captured Pathri. Alauddin suffered defeat. The forces of Ahmad Nagar ransacked the country-

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Nizām al-Mulk Āṣaf Djāh II and obtained the rank of "5,000".

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(A. S. BAZMEE ANSARI)

‘IMĀD SHĀHĪ, the title of a ruling family, founded by a Hindu convert to Islam, which ruled over Berar [q.v.] for nearly a century from 896/1490 until 982/1574. The founder of the dynasty, Daryā Khān, better known to history by his title Fath Allāh ‘Imād al-Mulk, was descended from the Canarese Brahmins of Vidjyanagar [q.v.]. He fell as a prisoner of war in 827/1423 into the hands of Khān-i Djāhān, the commander-in-chief of the Bahmani [q.v.] forces in Berar, who appointed him to his personal bodyguard. Impressed by his talents and ability Khān-i Djāhān quickly promoted him to offices of trust and distinction. After the death of his master, Fath Allāh joined the court at Bidar [q.v.] and through the good offices of the chief minister Khwādja Maḥmūd Gāwān [q.v.] received the title of ‘Imād al-Mulk from Muḥammad Shāh Bahmani II (reg. 867/1463-887/1482). In 876/1471 he was appointed governor and commander of the forces in Berar, i.e., to the office which his former master Khān-i Djāhān had occupied. It appears however that towards the end of his life, although technically owing allegiance to the court at Bidar, he considered himself the virtual ruler of Berar, as was done by the early Nawwāb-Wazīrs of Awadh [q.v.] during the Moghul rule.

Partly because the founder of the dynasty was a convert, who had risen to power through military exploits, and partly because the rulers had little love for literature and art, no history of this dynasty was ever recorded and no man of letters paid any attention to the story of their rise and fall. Were it not for references to this dynasty in the histories of the neighbouring kingdoms, practically nothing would be known about them (Firishṭa devotes a separate section of his work to this dynasty). No buildings or works of art or public utility constructed during their rule have been discovered; they rather devoted their time to the welfare of their subjects and the prosperity of their state. Another reason for their not finding a historian to record their deeds was that theirs was the only Sunni kingdom in a cluster of Shī‘i states attracting Iranian men of letters, some of whom settled down in the sub-continent and took to the profession of writing. Consequently even the boundaries of this state are not precisely known. It is known however, to have extended from the Andjādri hills to the Gōdāwari, while on the west it bordered on Aḥmadnagar and Khāndēsh [q.v.]. Its eastern limits are uncertain; the region, including the site of the present-day city of Nāgpūr, was covered with jungle.

Soon after his appointment as governor of Berar, Fath Allāh was sent on an expedition against Rāi Vidjay Singh of Viragadh. He reduced the fort after a siege of six months, compelling the ruler to evacuate his ancestral home "leaving behind his public

treasures and hereditary wealth". In 877/1472, along with the chief minister Maḥmūd Gāwān and Yūsuf ‘Ādil Khān, who was later destined to become the founder of the ‘Ādil Shāhī dynasty of Bidjāpūr, he took part in the expedition against Belgām, which was conquered and added to the djāgir of the chief minister. On the execution of Maḥmūd Gāwān on a charge of treason in 886/1581, ‘Imād al-Mulk became apprehensive of his own safety and showed signs of disaffection. Muḥammad Shāh Bahmani II, fearing an open rebellion, placated him by confirming him in his government of Berar. In 887/1482, on the accession of Maḥmūd Shāh Bahmani II, a lad of twelve, he was raised to the office of a minister in reward for the slaughter of "foreigners" (gharībān), the supporters and adherents of Yūsuf ‘Ādil Khān, the governor of Bidjāpūr, thus paving the way for Nizām al-Mulk, a Dakhni nobleman, to usurp all power for himself (the king being a minor). At the same time Shaykh (Firishṭa purposely uses this word—used in the subcontinent as an honorific for converts to Islam belonging to respectable families—to show their non-Muslim origin) ‘Alā’ al-Din, the eldest son of ‘Imād al-Mulk, was appointed his father’s deputy in Berar. In course of time ‘Imād al-Mulk became so powerful that in conjunction with Nizām al-Mulk he conducted all the affairs of the government during the minority of the king, enjoying throughout the support of the queen-mother. Maḥmūd Shāh, smarting under the overbearing attitude of the two ministers and provoked by the casual remark of a Habshī [q.v.] courtier, ordered their assassination. Both of them, however, managed to escape with their lives, being expert swordsmen. ‘Imād al-Mulk retired to his government of Berar, nursing a grudge against the monarch and watching for an opportunity to shake off his yoke.

A few years later he declared his independence in 890/1484, striking his own coins and causing the khulṭa to be read in his own name. Yet he refrained from calling himself "Shāh", either out of respect for the royal family whom he had once served or (more probably) out of political expediency. He was not destined to enjoy the fruits of independence long, as in that very year he died. He was succeeded by his son ‘Alā’ al-Din, who, confident that the effete Bahmani monarch could not assert himself, assumed the title of Shāh in 896/1490; he established his court at Kāvēl, following the example of Malik Aḥmad Bahri, son of the late Nizām al-Mulk and Yūsuf ‘Ādil Khān of Bidjāpūr, who had earlier in 895/1489 declared their independence, the former founding the city of Aḥmadnagar [q.v.].

In 910/1504 Amir ‘Ali Barid, son of Kāsim Barid, the regent of Bidar [q.v.], who had won full control over Maḥmūd Shāh Bahmani, in league with Malik Aḥmad Bahri invaded the territories of Yūsuf ‘Ādil Shāh in order to punish him for professing the Shī‘a faith (all the other states around and the entire Muslim population of the Deccan were Sunni). Yūsuf ‘Ādil Shāh struck back strongly, compelling Maḥmūd Shāh and Amir ‘Ali Barid to seek help from others, including ‘Imād al-Mulk.

This "aged and experienced statesman" as Firishṭa describes him, resolved to maintain strict neutrality, and having perceived the intentions of Amir ‘Ali Barid, who was exploiting religion only to destroy Yūsuf ‘Ādil Shāh, interceded with the king on behalf of Yūsuf ‘Ādil Shāh. Amir Barid, now left practically alone, fled from the field along with the king, leaving the royal camp to be looted by the allies.