CHAPTER I

ANCESTORS OF ASAF KHAN AND HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AT THE MUGHAL COURT

Abul Hasan Asaf Khan was the son of Itimad-ud-Daulah Mirza Ghayas Beg Tahrani, grandson of Khwaja Muhammad Sharif-a native of Tehran, and brother of Jahangir’s favorite wife, Nur Mahal. He was born in Persia, in A.D 1569. He had accompanied his father in his journey to India and at that time he was only eight years old. Abul Hasan proved to be most famous and was graced with the title of Itiqad Khan in 1611 and Asaf Khan in 1614. He was married to the daughter of Ghayasuddin Ali Asaf Khan.

Asaf Khan’s grandfather Khwaja Muhammad Sharif was a poet who wrote under the assumed name of Hijri. He was a wazir of Tatar Sultan Qazaq Khan, son of Muhammad Khan Sharafuddin Ughlu Taklu, who held the office of the Beglar Begi of Khurasan, which was then a Persian province. On

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2 Tuzuk-i Jahangiri, (Rogers), vol. 1, p. 202; Maa’sir-i Jahangiri, p. 152
4 Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 575
6 Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. 1, p. 127
the death of Qazaq Khan, he was made wazir of Yazd by Shah Tahmasp where he served for seven years. In recognition of his meritorious services the Khwaja was later appointed wazir of Isfahan. He died in 984 A.H. or 1576 C.E. His father (Khwaja Muhammad Sharif) and forefathers had held the post (lit service) of Darul Saltanat Isfahan (auditor generalship) under the kings of Persia.

Khwaja Muhammad Sharif had two brothers- Khwaja Mirza Ahmad and Khwajagi Khwaja. Khwaja Mirza Ahmad was the father of Mirza Amin the headman (kalantar) or magistrate of Ray, who travelled a good deal and was peshkari (tasaddi) of the Khalsa land for some years. Even after death of the Shah, his son Sultan Muhammad recognized of Mirza Amin’s ability and entrusted him with the important affairs of the state. He was a great philanthropist and a generous host and composed the excellent work entitled Haft Iqlim.

Khwaja Khwajagi was an accomplished poet and a brilliant conversationalist. He was a sweet talker and a master of wit and humors.

\[7\] Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. 1, p. 127
\[8\] Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. 1, p. 127
\[10\] Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, sec. 1, p. 3; Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572
\[11\] Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, sec. 1, p. 3; Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 577
\[14\] Khwaja Amin Razi, i.e. of the town of Ray, Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572.
\[15\] Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. 1, p. 129
Khwajagi Khwaja had a son of the name of Khwaja Shapur, who was likewise a literary man.\textsuperscript{16}

Muhammad Sharif had two sons. The elder son, Muhammad Tahir was a scholarly man who wrote poetry under the name of \textit{Wasli}.\textsuperscript{17} The younger son Khwaja Ghayasuddin Muhammad was also well-educated in the literary arts, but had decided to leave Persia immediately after his father’s death in 1576.\textsuperscript{18}

Muhammad Sharif’s family was related to another distinguished family of Aqa Mulla Dawatdar Qazwini of Iran\textsuperscript{19} was one of the chief courtiers of Shah Tahmasp Safavi and traced his ancestry from the family of Sheikh Shihabuddin Suhrwardi.\textsuperscript{20} His sons were also held important posts in Persia. Muhammad Sharif was married with the daughter of Aqa Mulla, and Ghayas Beg was married to the daughter of Mirza Alaud-Dawlah son of Agha Mulla.\textsuperscript{21}

Mirza Ghayasuddin Ali Asaf Khan

Among the near relatives of Ghayas Beg who had earlier migrated to India, were Mirza Ghayasuddin son of Aqa Mulla Dawatdar Qazwini and Asaf Khan Jafar Beg the grandson of Aqa Mulla and father in law of Ghayas Beg.\textsuperscript{22}

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\textsuperscript{16}Ain-\textit{i} Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572  \\
\textsuperscript{17}Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri, p. 54 (Calcutta edition) Urdu tr. by Zaqaria Mael, p. 61; Ain-\textit{i} Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572; Maa’\textit{\textit{a}}sir-\textit{ul} Umara, vol. p. 129  \\
\textsuperscript{18}Ain-\textit{i} Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572  \\
\textsuperscript{19}Ain-\textit{i} Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572; Maa’\textit{\textit{a}}sir-\textit{ul} Umara, vol. p. 129  \\
\textsuperscript{20}Maa’\textit{\textit{a}}sir-\textit{ul} Umara, vol. p. 129  \\
\textsuperscript{21}Ain-\textit{i} Akbari, vol. 1, p. 572; Maa’\textit{\textit{a}}sir-\textit{ul} Umara, vol. p. 129; According to Ain-\textit{i} Akbari-’Ghiyas Beg was married to the daughter of Mirza Alla-ud Daulah son of Agha Mulla’.  \\
\textsuperscript{22}Maa’\textit{\textit{a}}sir-\textit{ul} Umara, vol. p. 182
\end{flushright}
Mirza Ghayasuddin had distinguished himself in Gujarat. He had got the title of Asaf Khan in 1573\(^{23}\) for rendering service in Gujarat campaign. He was also appointed to Idar\(^{24}\) to suppress the rebel zamindar, Narayan Das Rathor in 1572.\(^{25}\) By the end of 1578 he was ordered to proceed to Gujarat,\(^{26}\) after the completion of his task. He died in 1581 in Gujarat.\(^{27}\)

**Asaf Khan Jafar Beg**

Another relative of Abul Hasan Asaf Khan, named Asaf Khan Jafar Beg was presented to Akbar by his uncle Ghayasuddin Ali Asaf Khan in the year 1577.\(^{28}\) In the beginning, he was in command of 20 \((do\ bist)\)\(^{29}\) and attached with his uncle. Earlier he was dissatisfied with his rank, later on he was awarded with the rank of 2000\(^ {30}\) and the title of Asaf Khan\(^{31}\) when he escaped from the hand of rebel Masum Khan Kabuli in 1583 and reached Fatehpur Sikri.\(^ {32}\) Now he became *mir-bakshi* and was deputed against Rana of Udaipur. In 1587 he was appointed the *thanadar* of Swat.\(^ {33}\) He successfully suppressed

\(^{24}\)Akbarnama, vol. III, p. 264
\(^{25}\)Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. p. 282
\(^{26}\)Muntakhab-ut Tawarikh, Badauni, vol. II, p. 241
\(^{27}\)Muntakhab-ut Tawarikh, Badauni, vol. II, p. 241
\(^{28}\)Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. 1, p. 187; Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri, p. 5
\(^{29}\)Akbarnama, vol. III, p. 228; Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri, p. 5; Maa’sir-ul Umara, vol. p. 282; indicated it to be *du sadi*, that is 200.
\(^{31}\)Zakhirat-ul Khawanin, vol. 1, p. 187
Raushaniya movement in 1592.\textsuperscript{34} In 1594\textsuperscript{35} he was sent to Kashmir - a newly conquered territory and became its governor in 1597.\textsuperscript{36} He was appointed \textit{diwan-i kul} in 1599 in place of Rai Pitr Das and governor of Bihar with the rank of 3000.\textsuperscript{37}

Asmat Bano mother of Asaf Khan was also a very powerful woman and played an important role during Jahangir’s reign. Mirza Ghayas Beg had three sons namely Muhammad Sharif, Abul Hasan and Itiqad Khan. Out of the three, Abul Hasan the second son was destined to play a pivotal role in the respective periods of Jahangir and Shahjahan in the Mughal politic. Asaf Khan had four sisters, Manija Begum, was married to Qasim Khan.\textsuperscript{38} Khadija Begum was married with Hakim Beg.\textsuperscript{39} Mehrunnisa the wife of Emperor Jahangir became famous as Nur Jahan.\textsuperscript{40}

Asaf Khan had three sons namely Abu Talib Shaista Khan, Mirza Bahmanyar and Farrukh. Out of these three sons of Asaf Khan, only Abu Talib Shaista Khan and Mirza Bahmanyar rose to great height of power during the reign of Shahjahan and Aurangzeb. Asaf Khan had seven daughters namely Malika Bano married with Saif Khan, second daughter Arjumand Bano later

\textsuperscript{36}Maa’\textsuperscript{a}sir-ul Umara, vol. p. 286; Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 451(note 98)
\textsuperscript{37}Maa’\textsuperscript{a}sir-ul Umara, vol. p. 286; Ain-i Akbari, vol. 1, p. 451(note 98)
\textsuperscript{38}Maa’\textsuperscript{a}sir-ul Umara, vol. p. 286; Irfan Habib, Medieval India Miscellany, vol. 1, pp. 82-83.
\textsuperscript{39}Irfan Habib, Medieval India Miscellany, vol. 1, pp. 82-83.
\textsuperscript{40}Irfan Habib, Medieval India Miscellany, vol. 1, pp. 82-83.
Known as Mumtaz Mahal, was given in marriage to Prince Khurram in C.E. 1612.\textsuperscript{41} Saliha Bano was married with Mir Miran Yazdi, Malja Bano married with Fakhir Khan Najm Sani, Farzana Begum married with Jafar Khan, Mehrunnisa with Asad Khan, Najiba Bano with Khan-i Zaman Mir Khalil.

\textbf{Mirza Ghayas Beg (Itimad-ud Daulah)}

The death of his father and several other unforeseen circumstances reduced Ghayas Beg to a state of poverty and compelled him to migrate to India with his two sons and one daughter from Persia to India.\textsuperscript{42} He was plundered on the way, and had only two mules left upon which the numbers of the family alternately rode. On his arrival at Qandahar, his wife gave birth to another daughter, who received the name Mehrunnisa.\textsuperscript{43} Mirza Ghayas Beg was presented to Emperor Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri by Malik Masud.\textsuperscript{44} Akbar admitted Mirza Ghayas Beg into imperial service in 1577.\textsuperscript{45} However, the first reference of his \textit{mansab} of 300 zat is for the first time mentioned in the \textit{Ain} and other sources related to the year 1594.\textsuperscript{46} In the same year he was made \textit{diwan} of Kabul and was in course of time promoted to a \textit{mansab} of 700 and appointed

\begin{footnotes}
\footnote{\textit{Ain-i Akbari}, vol. 1, p. 229; see, \textit{The Apparatus of Empire, Awards of rank, Officers and Titles to the Mughal Nobility (1574-1658)}, M. Athar Ali, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1985.}
\end{footnotes}
By the close of 1605 and immediately after Jahangir came to power, he was bestowed upon mansab of 1500 zat with the high title of Itimad-ud Daulah. He had received a temporary setback due to his son’s alleged involvement in a conspiracy to murder Jahangir during Khusrau’s rebellion. When he was imprisoned for some time, he was made to pay two lakhs of rupees for release. Afterwards, the Emperor gave him 5000 rupees as a gift and increased his mansab 2000 zat, 500 sawar in 1611. In the same year his rank was increased up to 2500 zat and 500 sawar due to his efficiency and loyalty to the Emperor. He was also given a sum of rupees five thousand as gift. He was appointed as wazir by Emperor. Jahangir wrote in his memoir that- “On the basis of seniority in service, extent of sincerity and experience in the affairs of the state, I exalted Itimad-ud Daulah to the high office of vizarat of dominion”. In 1612 his mansab was raised to 4000 zat and 1000 sawar. In 1614 he was awarded with a mansab of 5000 zat and 2000 sawar. In 1615 he received the mansab of 6000 zat and 3000 sawar and also honored with the grant of a flag (“alam”) and drum (“nagara”). He received tuman and taugh

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49 Maa’Sir-ul Umar, vol. II, p. 128
51 Maa’Sir-ul Umar, vol. 1, p. 128; Jahangirnama, (Hindi), p. 269
52 Maa’Sir-ul Umar, vol. 1, p. 128; Jahangirnama, (Hindi), p. 269
53 Tuzuk-i Jahangiri, vol. 1, p. 200
and also received the special privilege of having his drums beaten after those of Prince Khurram. By 1616 he was given the *mansab* of 7000 *zat* and 5000 *sawar*. In 1617 Emperor placed his turban from his own hands on the head of Itimad-ud Daulah. By 1619 he had attained the rank of 7000 *zat* and 7000 *sawar*. Emperor permitted the ladies of the *haram* to come unveiled before him. In the sixteenth regnal year (1622), when the Emperor was proceeding to Kashmir for the second time, he halted in the district of Sibah, and went to visit the fort of Kangra. Next day Itimad-ud Daulah fell ill and his condition become critical. Nur Jahan and Emperor returned to the residence of Itimad-ud Daulah. After two or three hours he died. At that time 41 persons, his children and relatives received mourning dress from the Emperor. Nur Jahan constructed a mausoleum over the grave of her father Itimad-ud Daulah situated at Agra on the left bank of river Yamuna within a garden enclosed by a wall.

Emperor Jahangir wrote in his memoirs after the death of Itimad-ud Daulah that- ‘though the weight of such a kingdom was on his shoulders and it was not possible for or within the power of a mortal to make everyone

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58 *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 351
59 *Tuzuk i- Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 82; *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 174; *Jahangirnam (Hindi)* p. 591
60 *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 378.
61 *Maa’sir-ul Umara*, vol. 1, p. 129
62 *Maa’sir-ul Umara*, vol. 1, p. 129
contented, yet no one ever went to Itimad-ud Daulah with a petition or on business who turned from him in an injured frame of mind.⁶⁴

Farid Bhakkari wrote in *Zakhirat-ul Khawanin* that ‘he was always respected, reserved and plenipotentiary of the government. None had the power to point a finger of objection in his dealing of an affair during his (entire) span of life…. Till the end of his life he was the *diwan-i kul* of the protected empire without partnership of anyone else.’⁶⁵ *Iqbalnama* mentions at length about the intelligence, clever and skill with which Ghayas Beg performed his service to Akbar. Mutamad Khan writes that he ‘was considered exceedingly clever and skillful both in writing and in transacting business.’⁶⁶

**Abu Talib Shaista Khan**

Mirza Abu Talib was a grandson of Mirza Ghayas Beg Itimad-ud Daulah and was the son of Asaf Khan and maternal uncle of Aurangzeb. He was brother of Shahjahan’s favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal.⁶⁷ By the order of Emperor Jahangir he got married to the granddaughter of Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khana, daughter of Shahnawaz Khan.⁶⁸ Abu Talib started his political career during Jahangir’s reign in 1622 with *mansab* of 2000 zat and 100 sawar and

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⁶⁵*Zakhirat-ul khawanin*, sec. 1, p. 4
⁶⁶*Iqbalnama-i Jahangiri*, p. 54 (Calcutta edition) Urdu tr. by Zaqaria Mael, p. 61
⁶⁷*Maa’ sir-ul Umara*, vol. II, pp. 690-91; *Travels in India*, Jean Baptiste Tavernier tr. & ed. from French edition 1676 by V. Bell, New Delhi, 1889. P. 6 n
⁶⁸All his (Shaista Khan’s) children were born of concubines, mentioned in *Maa’ sir-ul Umara*, vol. II, p. 836.
received the title of Shaista Khan during twenty first years (1625) of Jahangir’s reign.\textsuperscript{69}

In the beginning of Shahjahan’s reign he was raised to the \textit{mansab} of 5,000 with 4,000 \textit{sawar}.\textsuperscript{70} In the third regnal year of Shahjahan, he was appointed as leader and commander when three large armies were dispatched from Burhanpur for the evacuation of Khan-i Jahan.\textsuperscript{71} He was appointed \textit{wazir} of Shahjahan on his father’s death in 1641.\textsuperscript{72} In the fifteenth regnal year (1641-42) of Shahjahan, he led a force against Pratap, the \textit{zamindar} of Palamau.\textsuperscript{73} In eighteen regnal (1645) year, he was appointed governor of Malwa and in twentieth regnal (1646-47) year\textsuperscript{74} was given charge of Gujarat. He also received an annual allowance of 5 lakh of rupees from the general treasury of the province for 3,000 \textit{sibbandi} (local militia) horsemen.\textsuperscript{75} In the (1650) twenty second regnal year he was reappointed to Malwa.\textsuperscript{76} After one year he was appointed to Deccan and later on reappointed to the province of Gujarat.\textsuperscript{77}

\textsuperscript{69} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 825
\textsuperscript{70} \textit{Badshahnama}, of Lahori, vol. 1, p. 180
\textsuperscript{72} \textit{Travels in India}, Tavernier, p. 16 n
\textsuperscript{73} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91
\textsuperscript{74} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91; \textit{Amal-i Salih}, vol. III, p. 64; Tavernier mentions that Shaista Khan gave him a \textit{Khilat} complete with sward, \textit{khanjar} and a horse when he was in Gujarat, \textit{Travels in India}, p. 246.
\textsuperscript{75} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91
\textsuperscript{76} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91
\textsuperscript{77} \textit{Maa’sir-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91
the twenty seventh regnal (1655) year, he returned to the court and next year sent to Malwa. In 1656 he was sent to assist Aurangzeb against Qutub Shah the ruler of Deccan. After he successfully accomplished this work, he was rewarded for the service and promoted to the mansab of 6,000 zat 6,000 sawar, do aspah sih aspa and was given the high title of Khan-i Jahan. Further in 1659 he was promoted with the highest mansab of 7,000/7,000 do aspa sih aspa and honoured with the title of Amir-ul Umara and a pargana yielding a revenue of two krors of dams.

Shaista Khan also got rapid promotions and highest mansab during Aurangzeb’s reign due to his support in the war of succession. He was the first to come and pledge loyalty to Aurangzeb during his war of succession. At the time of Aurangzeb’s second coronation, Shaista Khan was seated on the right of the Emperor. In the second regnal year of Aurangzeb, he was exalted by being allowed to beat his drums in the presence of Emperor. He was appointed to the province of Agra as a subahdar in 1659 and in 1660 for four years he was sent towards Deccan against Shivaji. During Maratha expedition his son Abu Fath Khan was killed. Then he was appointed to Bengal where Mir Jumla had just died and remained in charge of Bengal from 1663 to 1675. In

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81 Aurangzeb, Muni Lal, p. 97.
82 Aurangzeb, Muni Lal, p. 222.
83 Ma’āsir-ul Umara, vol. II, pp. 690-91
84 Ma’āsir-ul Umara, vol. II, pp. 690-91
1676 he was transferred to Orissa and again to Bengal in 1678 in 1679 in Agra and lived in Orissa till 1686. He lived with a good reputation up to the day of his death and died in the beginning of thirty eighth (1694) regnal year.\textsuperscript{85} Saqi Mustaid Khan in \textit{Maa´sr-i Alamgiri} noted about excellent and praiseworthy qualities of Asaf Khan as “this noble \textit{amir} were such that the fame of his liberty and charity enveloped the sky.”\textsuperscript{86} Besides Political and administrative responsibility, Shaista Khan had great interest in trade and commerce. He encouraged European trade and made roads, ensured safety from robbers, granted privileges to the companies secured imperial \textit{farmans} of their behalf. Shaista Khan had also interest in construction of buildings. He built various mosques, tombs and secular buildings in Bengal and outside.

Contemporary Persian historians have assessed Shaista Khan for his administrative management like, abolishing illegal taxes, establish jurisdiction particularly in Bengal after Mir Jumla. Persian sources also praised about his liberty and charities, and justice. On the other side Europeans projected him as a greedy and corrupt officer.\textsuperscript{87}

\textbf{Itiqad Khan Mirza Bahman Yar}

Itiqad Khan Mirza Bahman Yar was the son of Khan-i Jahan Asaf Khan. In the tenth regnal year (1637 C.E.) of Shahjahan, he held the rank of 500 \textit{zat}

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\item \textsuperscript{85} \textit{Maa’SR-ul Umara}, vol. II, pp. 690-91
\item \textsuperscript{86} \textit{Ma’asir-i Alamgiri}, tr. ed. Sir Jadu Nath Sarkar, p. 223.
\item \textsuperscript{87} Somehow, Shaista Khan has been criticized by the Europeans for his corrupt ways; \textit{The Diaries of Streynsham Master 1675-1680}, ed. Sir Richard Carnac Temple, (1675-1677), vol. 1, p. 493.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
and 200 sawar. After his father’s death he got an increase and was always treated with kindness. In 1645 his mansab was 2000 zat and 200 sawar, and in the 1648 his mansab was raised to 3000 zat and 300 sawar with the title of Khanzada Khan. In the twenty fifth regnal year he returned from the Deccan, where he had been to visit his brother Shaista Khan, and entered into the royal service. He had the rank of 400 zat with 500 sawar and the family title of Itiqad Khan which his father and uncle both held and also appointed mir bakhshi till the end of 1651. In the fifth regnal year of Aurangzeb (1662) he got the mansab of 5000 zat with 1000 sawar and received royal favours. In the tenth regnal year, he obtained the flag and took leave to go to Bengal and see his elder brother (Shaista Khan.) He died in 1671.88 He was a very honest and pious man and loved the poor.89

**Itiqad Khan Mirza Shapur**

Itiqad Khan Mirza Shapur was second son of Itimad-ud Daulah, who held the mansab of 800 and the title of the Itiqad Khan during the tenth regnal year of Jahangir.90 In 1615, he was given the mansab of 1500 zat and 500 sawar.91 It was subsequently raised to 4,000 zat and 900 sawar.92 In 1618 his mansab was further raised to 4000 zat and 1000 sawar.93 In 1619 got mansab

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88 *The Diaries of Streynsham Master* 1675-1680, pp. 354-55.  
89 *The Diaries of Streynsham Master* 1675-1680, pp. 354-55.  
90 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17  
91 *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 283; *Jahangirnama* (Hindi) p. 351  
92 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17; *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 283  
93 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17; *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. 1, p. 283; *Jahangirnama* (Hindi) p. 351
of 4,000 zat and 1500 sawar. In 1620 his mansab was raised up to 4000 zat 2500 sawar and in 1620 4,000 zat 3,000 sawar. During seventeenth regnal year of Jahangir he was appointed in Kashmir. During the sixth regnal year of Shahjahan, he was appointed in Shahjahanabad. During the ninth regnal year he was appointed as faujdar of Jaunpur. During the sixteen regnal year, was appointed in Bihar; in twentieth regnal year in Bengal and in twenty second regnal year was appointed in Awadh with the mansab of 5000. He died in twenty third regnal year of Shahjahan.

**Arjumand Bano Begum**

The second daughter of Asaf Khan Arjumand Bano, later Known as Mumtaz Mahal, was given in marriage to Prince Khurram in 1612. On the coronation of Shahjahan, Arjumand Bano Begum was awarded with the title of Mumtaz Mahal with two lakhs of gold coins and six lakh rupees. Ten lakh rupees were fixed as her annual allowance. During the early years of the reign of shahjahan, his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal was his leading counsellor. Mumtaz Mahal was the most beloved wife of Shahjahan. She

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95 *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*, vol. II, p. 269; *Jahangirnama* (Hindi) p. 351
96 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17
97 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17
98 *Tazkirat-ul Umara*, p. 17
100 *Badshahnama* of Lahori, vol. 1, p. 96; *Amal-i Salih*, vol. 1, p. 192; *Shahjahannama*, p. 8.
enjoyed the title of *Malika-i Jahan*. From her marriage with shahjahan, she had 14 children.\textsuperscript{102} She died on seventeenth June 1631 at Burhanpur at the time birth to a girl child, Gauhar Ara Begum. She was temporarily buried in a pavilion in the garden of Zainabad at Burhanpur. In December 1631, the dead body of the late Empress was sent from Burhanpur to Agra and the corpse was consigned to earth on 15\textsuperscript{th} Jumade II, 1041 A.H / 15\textsuperscript{th} January 1632 C.E. in a most splendid mausoleum now famous as the Taj Mahal.\textsuperscript{103}

\textsuperscript{103}Badshahnama of Lahori, vol. 1, pp. 402-403; Amal-i Salih, vol. 1, pp. 389-30; Shahjahannama of Inayat Khan, pp. 73-74