CHAPTER - THREE

IMMIGRATION FROM IRĀN UNDER AURANGZEB.

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During Aurangzeb's reign there appears to have been a marked decline in the number of Irânian immigrants, though the broad pattern of their immigration remained the same as in the reign of Shâhjahân. As before we find that many of the immigrants themselves or their ancestors had held important offices under their previous masters in Irân or in the Deccan before joining Mughal service. Similarly, some scholars, poets and physicians of repute also came to India and were given posts in the Mughal nobility. Though the number of Irânians, coming direct from Irân, declined, they could still maintain their majority in the Mughal ruling class because of the influx of the Irânîs from the Deccan.

The decline of the direct migration may have been due partly to the decline of the Şafavid Empire and partly to Aurangzeb's continuous engagement in the Deccan affairs which naturally lessened his interest in the situation on the north-west.

It is also likely that owing to the continuous engagement of Mughal forces in the Deccan, large-scale recruitment of the Deccanîs and the consequent pressure on the limited resources

1. Mughal Nobility, op.cit., p. 17.
of the Empire, might have reduced the opportunities for
Iranians directly coming from the homeland.

A list of immigrants is given in the Appendix to
this chapter based on the major sources of Aurangzeb's reign.
The number within brackets after each name to be mentioned
in the text of this chapter refers to the serial numbers
given to the person concerned in the Appendix.

An analysis of the table suggests certain interesting
features regarding the nature and type of the immigrants in
comparison to the preceding period. So far as the nature of
immigration is concerned, it is worth observing that none
of the immigrants seems to have made his way to India as a
result of being forced to leave the country by growing
political instability. Such as came in search of employment
generally had their relatives in India with important
positions.

As regards the type of immigrants it appears that
unlike Shāhjahān's reign the number of poets, scholars,
scientists and physicians experienced a marked decline in
this period. During Shāhjahān's reign as many as 16 out of
74 i.e. 21.6 per cent of the total immigrants belonged to
this category while under Aurangzeb only two are known out
of 41 total immigrants i.e. only 4.8 per cent. It may be

1. See Appendix, Nos. 1 and 21.
pointed out that these two were scholars; not a single
physician or scientist came to India under Aurangzeb, whereas during the preceding period out of 16 immigrants belonging to category of intellectuals seven were physicians of repute and two were scientists, mathematician and astronomers.

Secondly, very few of the immigrants from Iran came without any family-connections during this period; nineteen out of 36 are known to have belonged to families branches of which had already come and settled in India. We may take as an example the family of Khalīfa Sulṭān, the Wazir of Iran, offers example of such immigrants. Mīr Muḥammad Hādī, a great grandson of Khalīfa Sulṭān and Mīr Ja'far Iṣfahānī, Khalīfa Sulṭān's sister's son had already settled in India during Shāhjahān's reign. Among others mention may be made of Muḥammad Amin Beg (No. 8), son-in-law of Zūlfiqār Khān, Isfandyār (No. 10), a cousin of Asad Khān, Burhanuddin (No.13), nephew of Fāzil Khān Tūnī, Muḥammad Ṭāhir Beg (No. 19), son of Ṭāhir Mardān Khān, and Mīr Maḥmūd (No. 20), brother of Mirzā Muḥammad Mashhādī Aṣālat Khān.

1. These were Mullā Shafī'ī Dānishmand Khān and Mullā 'Alā-ul Mulk Tūnī Fāzil Khān. For others see Chapter Second, Appendix, Nos. 13,14,33,34,60, 73 and 74.

2. See Appendix, Nos, 4,5,15, 22-24, 27, 33 and 37.

3. See Chapter Second, Appendix, Nos 50 and 69.
Most immigrants coming directly from Iran did not succeed in obtaining very high ranks. The only exception seems to be the members of Khalīfa Sultān's family, and even in this family only a very few who were direct descendants of Khalīfa were awarded high mansabs on their arrival in India. Mīr 'Imād (No. 5), a sister's son of Khalīfa Sultān was given the rank of 1000/200 together with khilāt and a cash award of Rs. 12,000/-, Mīr Qiwāmuddīn Khān (No. 22), a brother of Khalīfa Sultān, was granted the rank of 3000/1,500, a khilāt and Rs. 10,000/- as inām and his son Mīr Sadruddīn (No. 23) was awarded a mansab of 700/100 and was later appointed Mīr Ātish with the title of Ṣaf Shikan Khān. A grandson of Khalīfa Sultān, Mīr ʿAlī Naqī (No. 37), was granted the mansab of 4000/2000 and was awarded a khilāt and Rs. 10,000/- as inām when he came to the court. Those who were not the direct descendants of Khalīfa Sultān, such as his sons-in-law, Mīr Ḥidāyat ullah (No. 4) and Saiyid Ṣadr-i Jahān (No. 15), were given at the most


3. Abūl Faẓl Māmūrī, Ṭārīkh-i Aurangzeb, OR. MS. 1671, f. 193(b) (hereafter see Māmūrī).
a cash award of Rs. 5000/-, a khil'at and probably a small rank. Similarly, a son-in-law of Saf Shikan Khan, Haji Muhammad Rafī' (No. 33), was granted a khil'at when he arrived here.

Another noticeable feature is the continuing crucial importance of family background of immigrants, as against this experience and abilities were not a sure passport to rank. Mużaffar Beg Kirmānī (No. 11) who had been Wazīr of Kirmān before coming to India was not given any rank but only a cash award of Rs. 5000/-. As against this the members of Khalīfa Sultan's family were recipients of high ranks and important posts at the Mughal court on account of their being the descendants of a highly reputed aristocratic family of Iran. Mirzā Safavī Khan 'Alī Naqī (No. 40), a grandson (by daughter) of Shāh Abbās II, was awarded the rank of 3000/1000 obviously because he belonged to the royal family of Iran.

2. M.A., p. 270; also see Appendix, No. 33.
3. See Chapter Two.
5. See Appendix, Nos. 5, 22, 23, 27 and 37.
It is significant that a large number of immigrants who came direct from Iran during this period were those whose relatives had been in the Mughal service and it can be presumed that they came at the invitation of their relatives. Muḥammad Amīn Beg (No. 8), was son-in-law of Zülfıqār Khān; Isfandīyar (No. 10), a cousin of Asad Khān; Burhānuddīn (No. 13), the nephew of Fāzīl Khān Tūnī; Muḥammad ‘Alī Beg (No. 19), son of ‘Alī Mardān Khān Amīr-ul-Umarā’, Mīr Maḥmūd (No. 20), brother of Aṣālat Khān Mirzā Muḥammad Mashhadī; Hājī Muḥammad Rafī (No. 33), son-in-law of Ṣaf Shikan Khān; and Mukaramat Khān Muḥammad Mansūr (No. 34), a grandson of Mahābat Khān Haiderābādī. All of these persons migrated to India with the expectation of getting high manṣabs at the Mughal Court.

As for the Deccani immigrants of Iranian origin, Aurangzeb's policy seems to have been more liberal as compared to Shāhjahān, and more liberal still from 1682 onwards when Aurangzeb's long process of total annexation of the whole of the Deccan began. A substantial number of

the Deccani nobles had then to be taken into service. The list in Appendix can not pretend to be complete as we do not know of the racial grouping of many of the Deccani officers. Thus the rather small number of the Irānī-Deccanīs (8 out of 41) does not probably represent the true position, since a number of Irānian Deccanī nobles may have been excluded from our list.

The Deccanī nobles, whether Irānī or other, were given high grants quite generously. In 1688, the Deccanī recruits holding up to 1000 zāt ranks were also exempted from providing security bonds. It may, however, be pointed out that during Aurangzeb's reign the official definition for the term, Deccanī was that all the nobles, whether of Indian or foreign origin, who, before joining the Mughal service, had served under either of the Deccanī Kingdoms (Bijapur and Golconda) were to be treated as Deccanīs. They were subject to one-fourth deduction from their pay claims as against those foreigners who directly joined the Mughal service in the Deccan after their arrival there. These

1. On the basis of Jamā dāmī statistics, M. Athar Ali has drawn the conclusion that while the share of the Mughal Provinces of the Deccan in the Jamā dāmī of the Empire between 1667 and 1691 increased only by 35.5 per cent the proportion of the Deccani nobles between 1658-78 and 1679-1707 rose by 136.5 per cent. See Mughal Nobility, p. 28.

direct entrants were exempted from this deduction. After
the annexation of Golkonda (1687), Šāqī Musta'īd Khān writes
that a separate volume would be required to give details of
the coming of Ḥaiderābadīs to the Mughal court, their join-
ing imperial service and receiving mansabs from 7000 to
500 zāt. This influx of the 'upstart' Deccanis, in the
later years of Aurangzeb, and their increasing ranks and
numbers over the old mansabdārs caused much resentment among
the older nobility - the Khānāzāds. Saiyid Sulṭān Karbalāī
(No. 14), an officer of Golkonda, was awarded the rank of
1500/600, a khil'at and Rs. 12,000/- as in'am on his arrival
at the Mughal Court in 1663. Mīr Ḥusainī 'Alī Mardān Khān
Ḥaiderābādī (No. 35) and Muṣṭafā Khān Ābdur Razzāq Lārī
(No. 36) were granted the mansabs of 5000/5000 and 5000/3000
respectively on their joining service in 1688. It is
significant that Ābdur Razzāq Lārī unwillingly joined Mughal
service while 'Alī Mardān Khān had deserted the service of
Golkonda.

1. S.D.A., p. 64.
3. Ma'amūrī, ff. 156(b)-157(a); Cf. Nobility, pp. 28-29.
5. M.A., p. 396; Ma'amūrī, ff. 177(a), 178(a); K.K., op. cit,
p. 373; also see M.U., II, p. 824.
6. M.A., p. 364; Ma'amūrī, ff. 177(a), 184(b), 186(b);
K.K., II, 404-5; M.U., II, 824-5.
Perhaps the most significant of the Deccani immigrants was Muḥammad Ibrāhīm Mahābat Khān Ḥaiderābādī (No. 32). He was the Commander-in-chief of the Golkonda Kingdom before his arrival at the Mughal court in 1687. He was granted a manṣab of 7000/6000. He was perhaps the first among the Deccani immigrants of Aurangzeb's reign to be awarded such a high rank on the very day of his arrival. This reflects Aurangzeb's policy of granting ranks generously to the Deccani nobles in order to win them over to his side.

1. M.A., p. 269; Ma'amūrī, f. 172(b); K.K., II, pp. 305-6; M.U., III, pp. 627-8.
2. Ma'amūrī, ff. 156(b) - 157(a); K.K., II, p. 396.
# APPENDIX

## IRÁNIAN IMMIGRANTS RECEIVING MÁNSÁBS AND HONOURS AT AURANGZÉB'S COURT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Title</th>
<th>Year of Migration</th>
<th>Place of Origin/Clan</th>
<th>Former Status</th>
<th>Status in India</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mullá Muḥammad Šádiq</td>
<td>1659-60</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Rs. 1000/-Irfa</td>
<td>Alamgíráníma, 448-49.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mir Mużaffar</td>
<td>1659-60</td>
<td>Rank; Khil'at; Rs. 2,500/-Inám</td>
<td>Alamgíráníma, 463.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ḥusain's/o Ibn Hasan Khan Fīroz Jung</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mir Ibn Ḥusain</td>
<td>1659-60</td>
<td>Rank; Khil'at; Rs. 2,500/-Inám</td>
<td>Alamgíráníma, 463.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/o Ibn Ḥasan Khan Fīroz Jung</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mir Ḥidáyatullah S/L Khalífa Sultán</td>
<td>1659-60</td>
<td>Isfahán</td>
<td>Rs. 5000/-Inám.</td>
<td>Alamgíráníma, 473.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mir 'Imád sister's son of Khalífa Sultán</td>
<td>1659-60</td>
<td>Isfahán</td>
<td>1000/200; Khila t; horse; Rs. 12,000/-Inám</td>
<td>Alamgíráníma, 486-87.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
6. Mir Ibrāhīm N/o Mir Ḥasan of Qāin 1659-60 Qāīn  Rs. 6000/- Inā m. Alamgīrnāma, 487.

7. Mir Tālib N/o Mir Ḥasan Qāīnī 1659-60 Qāīn  Rs. 6000/- Inā m. Alamgīrnāma, 487.

8. Muḥammad Amin Beg, S/L Zulfiqar Khan 1659-60  - Khilat; Rs. 3000/- Inā m. Alamgīrnāma, 567; M.U., II, 93.

9. Mir Abu Tālib Mashhādī 1660-61 Mashhād  Rank; Khilat; Rs. 5000/- Inā m. Alamgīrnāma, 594-95.

10. Isfandiyār c/o Asad Khan 1660-61  - Rank; Khilat. Alamgīrnāma, 595.

11. Muẓaffar Beg Kirmān Wazīr of Kirmān 1661-62  Khilat; Rs. 5000/- Inā m. Alamgīrnāma, 743.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Ina'm</th>
<th>Alamgirnama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Mir Ibrahim Mazandran</td>
<td>1661-62</td>
<td>Mazandran</td>
<td>Khila t; Rs.2000/-</td>
<td>Alamgirnama, 743</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Saiyid Sultan</td>
<td>1663-64</td>
<td>D/S. of Karbalah</td>
<td>1500/600; Khila t; Rs.12000/-</td>
<td>Alamgirnama, 840, 843.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Muhammad Sharif</td>
<td>1663-64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Khila t; Rs.2000/-</td>
<td>Alamgirnama, 863.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
18. **Mulla Abdullah**  
S/o Mulla  
Muhammad Taqi  
Majlisi  
1665-66  
Rank: *Khila‘t*;  
Rs. 2000/-  
*Alamgirnaima*,  
918.

19. **Muhammad Ali Beg**  
S/o Ali Mardan  
Khän, Amir-ul  
Umara'  
1671-72  
Qandahar/Kurd  
2000/2000; *Khila‘t*;  
Rs. 10,000/-  
M.A., 109, 110.

20. **Mir Mahmud B/o**  
Aśālāt Khān  
1671-72  
Mashhad/S.  
1000/400; Rs. 7000/-  
M.A., 109-110;  
M.U., I, 222-25.

21. **Mūsāvi Khān**,  
Mirzā Muizz s/o  
Mirzā Fakhrah  
1671-72  
Mashhad/S  
Scholar, Poet  
(Fitrat)  
Rank  
M.A., 337, 338;  
M.U., III, 633-36;  
T.V., 2.

22. **Mir Qiwāmuddin**  
B/o Khalīfa  
Sultān  
1673-74  
Iṣfahān/S  
Ṣadr of Irān  
3000/1500;  
*Khila‘t*; Rs. 1000/-  
*Inā‘ m.*  
M.A., 130;  
M.U., III, 109-111;  
CT.K.K., II, 256-57.

23. **Mīr Šadrudīn**  
Ṣafshikan Khān  
S/o (No. 22).  
1673-74  
Iṣfahān/S  
700/100;  
*Khila‘t*  
M.A., 130;  
M.U., II, 746-47.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Mukhliš Khan</td>
<td>1673-74</td>
<td>Isfahān/S.</td>
<td>M.U.III, 641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S/o (No.23)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Mīr Afzal, Muqtadavī (or Mahtavī)Khān</td>
<td>1674-75</td>
<td>Tūn</td>
<td>Dīwān of Gawalīr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M.U.III, 801-806.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Mīr Muḥammād Rafī, Mubāriz- ul-Mulk, Sar-Buland Khān Bahādur, Dilāwar Jang S/o (No.25)</td>
<td>1674-75</td>
<td>Tūn</td>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M.U.III, 801-806.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Muhammad Shuja'</td>
<td>1676-77</td>
<td>Isfahān/S</td>
<td>1000/300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Saiyid Muẓaffar</td>
<td>1682-83</td>
<td>D./S. of Isfahān</td>
<td>Wazīr of Golconda Khilāt, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Mīr Hāshim s/o (No.28)</td>
<td>1682-83</td>
<td>D./S. of Isfahān</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30. Asalat Khan 1682-83 D./S. of Isfahān

31. Najābat Khan 1682-83 D./S. of Isfahān

32. Husainī Beg 1685-86 D. Sipahsālār of Quṭubul Mulk
Muḥammad Ḥabībulāh Khan 7,000/6,000
Muḥammad Ibrāhīm Khan M.A., 269;
Khalīlullāh Khan Maṭbāfat Khan Maḥābat Khan
Mahābat Khan Ḥaiderābādī. K.K., II, 335;
685-86

Rafī S/L Ṣaf
Shikan Khan (No.23)

34. Muḥammad Ṭaṣ‘ūr 1686-87 - 1,500/1,000 M.A., 303;
Makramat Khan M.K., II, 632.
G/o Maḥābat
KHAN Haiderābādī
(No. 32).

35. Mīr Husainī, 1686-87 D. Officer of Quṭubul Mulk 5000/5000 M.A., 364;
Ali Mardān Khan M.K., II, 824-25
Haiderābādī
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Mustafá Khan, Abdur Razzaq Lāri</td>
<td>1688-89</td>
<td>Officer of Quṭubul Mulk</td>
<td>4000/3000</td>
<td>K.K., II, 373; C.F. Ma'amūrī, ff. 178(a); M.U., II, 618-21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Abbās Qulī S/o Ilah Qulī Beg</td>
<td>1695-96</td>
<td>Dāghistān</td>
<td>Khilāt; Rank; copy of Quran etc.</td>
<td>Akhbārāt, 39RY, 8 Rajab, p.160; 40 R.Y. 18 Ramzān, p. 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Ḥāfiẓ, Mirzā Šāfavi Khan</td>
<td>1703-1704</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3000/1000; Khilāt.</td>
<td>M.A., 482; M.U., III, 653-54.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Muhammad Muḥsin N/o (No. 40)</td>
<td>1705-06</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M.A., 513.</td>
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