VIII

EVIDENCE ON KASHMIR

The author was fascinated with the beauties and charms of Kashmir. It is a land of flowers, beautiful gardens, tall trees like Chinar, Snober, Shamshad and Cyprus etc. There are streams, canals, water-falls, Dal Lake etc. There are orchards of different kinds of lush delicious fruit. The author, however, was struck by certain unfortunate deficiencies. A handful of Kashmiris, intoxicated with wealth wanted to show themselves as very important persons of Kashmir. The Author has narrated one incident of Shahu who was involved in debts. When the creditors persisted in their demands to claim their dues from him, he could not meet their expectations. He sought shelter with that vain group of people. Besides being vain, they were foolish fanatics too. For a long time a permanent Subadar could not be deputed to this part of the country. It created administrative difficulties. The absence of Governor added to the woes of the people of Kashmir and wicked people always attempted to fish in the troubled water, and made of it whatever they could get themselves. They indiscriminately set the houses of the Hindus ablaze and indulged in large-scale massacre. Mir Ahmed Khan, Naib Subadar, summoned them to his presence but they were so conceited that they thoughtlessly turned down his warnings, rather did not hesitate to shower him with filthy abuses. Mir Ahmed Khan was a brave person and

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1 Ghulam-Muhy-ud-Din, *Futuhat-Namah-i-Samadi*, MS., BM., Or. 1870, London. f.167 (Line 15); f.168 (Lines 1-2).

also a warrior, but he considered reconciliation of paramount urgency and beneficial for peace in the State. But keeping in view the large-scale massacre of the Hindus, he encamped with his army outside the city. He still preferred conciliation to war. He again warned them of the consequences of such violence. They ignored everything. Mir Ahmad Khan tried to keep himself aloof from the religious fanatics. The violent Kashmiris mistook his self-retreat into the background as a victory for themselves. Their short-sightedness and inability did not allow them to understand the true significance of all that was happening. They expelled the government officials like Qazi, Mufti, Muhtisib, Diwan, Kotwal and other royal functionaries from their houses. It was an affront to the established system of the Mughal administration and it climaxed to an extent that they closed the passages from the plains which provided entry to the valley from the plains. They did not stop here. They hurled another serious challenge at the administration and started collecting revenue from the government lands and treasury.

When the central government came to know about all these disturbances, they transferred the deputy Nawab Mir Ahmed Khan and replaced him by Zakariya Khan. Nawab Abdus Samad Khan was ordered to proceed against the disturbers of peace and rid the country of all the rioters. The Nawab as usual carried out the royal orders meticulously carefully. He handed over the Punjab to his son Zakariya Khan and appointed Arif Khan and Lakphat Rai respectively as his political and financial advisors.

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The Nawab proceeded to dispatch gunpowder, war material and all other things essential for waging a war. He arrived in the Bhimber valley. In the absence of highways there, the Nawab addressed himself first to the task of levelling small hills and mounds and providing a thoroughfare. He moved from Pirpanjal to Hamirpur pass. The people were amazed at the remarkable achievement of Nawab in the direction. The splendour of armed forces had again struck a terror in the minds of the creators of disturbances. It compelled them to disperse immediately. The Nawab arrested all those involved in creating a crisis in the country and punished them as per the ‘Law of Yasa’ i.e. punishment with torture. He held out promises to compensate all those who had suffered huge losses and to heal their wounds. He personally visited them to console them. He brought the whole situation under control and stayed, therefore, a short time for sight seeing. After appointing Najib as deputy Governor of Kashmir, he marched back to Lahore.

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7 Ghulam-Muhy-ud-Din, Futuhat-Namah-i-Samadi, MS., BM., Or. 1870, London. f.170 (Lines 6-9).
8 Ibid., f.170 (Lines 8-15).
9 Ibid., f.171 (Lines 4-5).
10 Ibid., f.171 (Lines 9-10).
11 Ibid., f.172 (Lines 6-8).