THE FAMILY OF SAYYID JALAL

The family of Sayyid Jalal was also an important Shaikhzada family of ShahJahan’s reign. But the rise of this family was not because of the support of any political group at the court or large family following. The family also does not belong to any important Shaikhzada families of Delhi, Agra, Lahore, Badaun or Ajmer. However, the prominence that they received was no doubt because of their close relation with famous Sufi saint ShahAlam of Bokhar in Gujarat. Sayyid Jalal was the son of Mir Muhammad Bukhari whose and ancestors the belonged to Bukhara and had come to Gujarat and settled at Batoh in the time of Sultan Mahmud Beghra. The family was highly respected and had attained important position in the court of Sultan of Gujarat. Sayyid Mir Muhammad a successor of ShahAlam was distinguished for his ability and holiness. On one of his visit to Gujrat Jahangir met his at Ahmdabad. He was greatly influenced by his abilities, ordered him to

1. ShahAlam the son of QtubAlam was born on 6th September 1414. Qutbuddin was the grandson of Sayyid Jalal Makhdum Jahaniyan. Originally, they were from Bokhara. (Ma’asir-ul umara, vol. III, 447).
prepare translation of **Quran** in simple language[^3]. Mir Muhammad also had two meetings with Prince Khurram; first while he was posted in Gujarat as a Prince and the second during the period of his rebellion when the Prince was on his way to the capital from Junair[^4]. These meetings indicate the attachment of the family with the imperial Mughals.

After the accession of ShahJahan Mir Muhammad sent his son Sayyid Jalal to court to offer congratulations. Sayyid Jalal came to court presented himself before the Emperor and offered him congratulations and returned to Gujarat but there is no reference to of Mir Muhammad himself coming to court or being invited to court by the Emperor. He died in 1635[^5]. But Sayyid Jalal kept on visiting the court[^6] and had very cordial relations with the Emperor. It seems, Shahjahan wanted him to join imperial service and after a great deal of persuasion, in 16[^th] regnal

[^4]: Ibid, 448.

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[^3]: After accession of Shahjahan, Mir Muhammad sent his son Sayyid Jalal to the court to congratulate him and the Emperor gave him a gift of Rs.2000. In 1640, Sayyid Jalal was summoned to the court from Ahmadabad and received Rs. 1000 as gift. A little later, he again visited the court and adorned received gift of Rs. 5000. Lahori, vol. I, Part II, 205, vol. II, 144,155.
Year Sayyid Jalal accepted the office of Sadr-i Kul, mansab of 4000 Zat and 700 Sawar and Rs. 30000 in gift\(^7\).

After assuming the office Sayyid Jalal represented to the Emperor that due to the negligence and carelessness of Musavi Khan, the earstwhile Sadr of the Empire, madad-i mash (subsistence allowances) had been given to undeserving people; and a large number of them were holding these grants on the strength of forged document. Shahjahan issued an order that till such time the investigations into the validity of claims were completed all grant should be withdrawn\(^8\). The Emperor’s order created great resentment among the grantees against Sayyid Jalal\(^9\).

Due to the above mentioned step, Sayyid Jalal became unpopular among the madad-i mash holders. However, he remained a favorite of the Emperor and continued to serve as Sadr till his death in 1647. In 1643, he was promoted to the rank of 4000 Zat and 1000 Sawar\(^10\) and in the following years again he was promoted to the rank of 5000 Zat 1000 Sawar.\(^11\) At the end of his career he held the rank of 6000 Zat 2000 Sawar.\(^12\)

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Sayyid Jalal’s sons Sayyid Jafar, Sayyid Ali, and Sayyid Hasan were also in the imperial service in minor capacities. Although, we have no reference of any specific office or mansab being given to them but they used to get frequently gifts of dresses of honour, horses and elephants. Sayyid Jafar who was the eldest son of Sayyid Jalal was nominated as Sajjdnashin of the Dargah of Shah Alam after the appointment of Sayyid Jalal as Sadr. One of his younger brother Syyid Ahmad also held some minor position at the court.

After the death of Sayyid Jalal, Shahjahan assigned mansab of 1000 Zat 200 Sawar to Sayyid Ali who had been working in the office of his father in various capacities. He had also once gone to Kabul along with the Emperor as his father’s deputy. Later on, in 1648, he was appointed Kotwal of Lahore and shortly afterwards he was raised to the rank of 1500 Zat 200 Sawar. In 1650, he was appointed Darogha-i Kitabkhan, and in 1655, he was elevated to the rank of 2500 Zat 500 Sawar and received the title of Rizawi Khan. Soon afterwards he was appointed Bakshi and Waqianavis of Gujarat.

18. Ibid, 44.
In 1657, he was summoned to court with specific instruction to present the Waqia of the province. It appears that the court had come to know of the hostile activities of Murad and Aurangzeb as a consequence of the illness of Shahjahan and the Empress (or Dara) wanted not only verify it, but also to get the details. After his arrival, Sayyid Ali gave the details and probably on that account after the accession Aurangzeb became unhappy with him. He was retired from active service and given Rs.12000. However, after a gap of four years he was summoned to court and raised to the rank of 5000 Zat 4000 Sawar and appointed Diwan of Jahan Ara Begum. Shortly afterwards he was given promotion of 1000 Sawar. In 1667 he was appointed Sadr of the Empire.

We have no information about the activities of Sayyid Jalal’s third son Sayyid Hasan and other relations in our sources.

21. Alamgirnama, 42.
22. Ibid, 62.