Chapter V

THE FAMILY OF BARHA SAYYIDS

The Barha Sayyids were an important group among the Mughal nobility, though their fame today rests most on the 'Sayyids Brothers' who dominated the court of Farrukh Siyar. In the period under study their repute as warriors seems to have been considerable, but they seem generally to have remained mansabders of moderate or low ranks. None of them was appointed governor or Central Minister.

An attempt was made by Blochmann to identify members of the Barha family. He also gave biographical notices of a few of them. Except for this, no other attempt has been made to reconstruct their position in our period though references have been made about them. 1 The contemporary sources notably Akbarnama, Tuzuk-i Jahangiri and Zakhirat-ul Khawanin 2 introduce us to a large number of persons of Barha families; 3 and these works have formed the main source for the present study.

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3. See Appendix, A & B.
A brief history of the family may be helpful, to begin with.

Blochmann, Atkinson and Nevill have given family charts followed by a brief history.¹ If we examine them we come across certain errors in their chronology. Here we have also utilised the history of Bilgram Sayyids who also claim to be of the same branch. According to their traditions, the ancestor of the Barhas, Abu Farah left Medina because of the persecution of the contemporary rulers and came to Wasit in Iraq. From Wasit he went to Chaznin and from there his four sons came to India in the army of Shihabuddin Ghauri. These four sons, Sayyid Abul Fazl, Sayyid Abul Fazail, Sayyid Daud, Sayyid Najmuddin, of Abu Farah settled in Panjab in four different villages called Sihanpur, Chatbanauri, Jajner and Kundli. The families retained these names when they migrated to localities within the present Musaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh and are still known by these names. As to their name Barha, Jahangir has himself explained its origin "they call twelve bara in Hindi. As in the Duab these are twelve villages near each other which are the native country of these Sayyids they have become known as Sayyids of Barha".²

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2. For more details about the family history of Barhas, see Blochmann, 428-29 and Atkinson, 589-90; *Tuzuk*, 366.
There was a controversy during the reign of Akbar and Jahangir regarding their genealogy. Once, in the court of Akbar some nobles questioned Sayyid Mahmud Barha about his ancestry, Sayyid Mahmud jumped in a fire nearby saying, that since he is a true Sayyid the fire would not hurt him. Jahangir himself notes that 'some people make remarks about their lineage but their bravery is convincing proof of their being Sayyid'. Farid Bhakkari confesses that he does not know much about the family. Apart from the question of ancestry, the more interesting historical question is what they were before entering Mughal nobility. It is said that they worked as menial servants in the army of Humayun. Perhaps on this account the Sayyids call each other among themselves as dogs, donkeys, oilmen, washermen, etc.

However, it is difficult to conclude anything on the basis of available data. It would seem that they developed considerable influence over local zamindars. It is said that after the death of one Raja Ram Chand of Sambhalera, Sayyid Hasan of Chhatrauri House appropriated his whole estate at the request of the widow rani.

2. Turuk, 362-64.
3. Z.K., 101b.
4. Nevill, 162.
5. Ibid., 168.
It had not been possible to trace the position of the Barha Sayyids before they joined Mughal service. But it appears that they enjoyed some position in the service of the Afghans. From the Ain also we could not gather whether they had samindari rights in the villages, as in its listing of samindar castes in sarkar of Saharanpur, it only enters Sayyids in some parganas, and not, especially the Sayyids of Barha.  

Sayyid Mahmud Barha of the Kundliwal House was the first Barha Sayyid to have joined Mughal service. Before entering the Mughal service he was in the employment of Iskandar Afghan. He deserted Iskandar during the siege of Mankot and came over to the Mughals. It is said that he joined the personal service of Bairam Khan. When Bairam Khan sent an advance guard under the command of Khan-i Zaman, Sayyid Mahmud was also despatched with him. After the victory of Panipat in the 2nd r.y. he was despatched against Haji Khan in the expedition against Ajmer or Nagor. In 1558 he was despatched along with Adham Khan against the rebellious Bahadurya tribes of Hatkant. He was also deputed for the conquest of the fort Jaitaran in Jodhpur. Later on when the Emperor

1. Ain-i Akbari, II (tr.), see account of twelve subas.
5. Akbarnama, II, 78; Ma'asir-ul Ummara, II, 375-77; Muntakhab-ut Tawarikh, II, 78.
was alienated from Bairam Khan, he joined imperial service and received a _jagir_ in Delhi.¹

Very probably Sayyid Mahmud joined Durzhal service as a political gamble, because he found the position of the Afghans to be very precarious. But except him no other Barha Sayyid is noticed in our sources till after the overthrow of Bairam Khan.

However, when the reins of government came into the hands of the Emperor and he was faced with a crisis in his nobility, he seems to have introduced two new elements of Indian origin viz. the Rajputs and the Indian Muslims to counter the old nobility.² The admission of Barha Sayyids, who were admitted in large numbers after the overthrow of Bairam Khan, would seem to support this view.

Akbar introduced many other Shaikhzada families³ but no other family comes equal to Barhas except the family of Shaikh Mubarak and

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1. _Ma`asir-ul Umara_, II, 375-77.


3. Shaikhzadas of Fathpur Sikri and Shaikhzadas of Nagor. Akbar also established matrimonial relations with the Shaikhzadas of Delhi and Agra. See _Muntakhab-ul Tawarikh_, II, 61-62 and also Iqtidar Alam Khan 'The Nobility of Akbar and Development of his Religious Policy'. The Sayyids of Amroha were also admitted in service by Akbar and a number of them were given mansabs. But they had no relationship with the Barha Sayyids. For a detailed history of Amroha Sayyids, see Jalal Ahmad Naqvi, _Tarikh-i Amroha_ (Urdu), I, Hyderabad Deccan, 1934.
Shaikh Salim Chishti who had special relations with the Emperor. However, even these two families could not count so many mansabdars as the Barha Sayyids.¹

In the siege of Chittor which was personally supervised by the Emperor, the Sayyids of Barha fought bravely, and Sayyid Jamaluddin son of Sayyid Ahmad Khan Barha was killed when a mine exploded.²

In the Gujarat campaign, Sayyid Mahmud Barha, Sayyid Ahmad Khan, Sayyid Qasim and Sayyid Hashim were despatched to accompany the advance guard of Khan Kalan. After reaching Pattan its charge was given to Mirza Khan under the tutelage of Sayyid Ahmad Khan.³ After the conquest of Ahmadabad, Akbar decided to expel the Mirzas from Gujarat. An army was sent under Man Singh, Sayyid Mahmud Barha and others for the conquest of Surat, which was under the occupation of the Mirzas. But in the meantime information was received that Ibrahim Husain Mirza having come out from Broach was very close to royal camp. Consequently the army was called back. Akbar hurried forward and was joined by Sayyid Mahmud and others raising the strength of the army to only two hundred men. A fierce battle was fought at Samal in which Ibrahim was defeated and put to flight.⁴

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¹. For the account of the family of Shaikh Salim Chishti, see chapter on 'The Family of Shaikh Salim Chishti'. For the total number of Barha nobles in Akbar's reign, see Appendix. A


⁴. Akbarnama, III, 11-16; Muntakhab-ut Tawarikh, II, 141.
After the victory of Saral the Emperor along with Sayyid Mahmud and other Barha Sayyid marched to conquer the Surat. While the operations were in progress, the Mirzas tried to create commotion near Pattan. Ibrahim Husain attempted to surprise Agra. Akbar despatched Sayyid Mahmud Barha, Shah Quli Mahram and Bhagwat Das to intercept the rebels.

While Emperor was in Surat, Muhammad Husain Mirza, Shah Mirza and the Fauladi Afghans attacked Pattan and besieged Sayyid Ahmad Barha. Mirza Aziz Koka rushed to his help and the Mirzas raised the siege. After the defeat of the Mirzas, Khan-i Alam along with Sayyid Qasim Barha was deputed to pursue Muhammad Husain Mirza who had fled to the Deccan.

After the completion of the conquest of Gujarat, Sayyid Mahmud returned to court along with Akbar, but Sayyid Ahmad, Sayyid Qasim and Sayyid Hashim were left in Gujarat.

Soon after Akbar's departure, Gujarat was again invaded by the rebels and Mirza Aziz Koka was besieged. On hearing of this, Akbar personally marched towards Ahmadabad. A strong advance guard was formed

2. Ibid., 23.
under Man Singh, Bhagwant Das, Sayyid Mahmud and other Barha Sayyids.1
In the battle fought with Muhammad HussainMirza, the Barha Sayyids were
in the centre under the command of Mirza Khan. The centre was responsible
for the great victory; and in the battle Sayyid Mahmud Barha and Rai Singh
distinguished themselves.2

In the same year after the reconquest of Gujarat, Sayyid Mahmud
along with Amroha Sayyids was despatched against the rebel Madhukar:
Sayyid Mahmud behaved courageously and brought the country to order.
Shortly afterwards Sayyid Mahmud died.3

In 1575 a contingent of the Barha Sayyids was despatched under
Sadiq Khan to Basantpur which belonged to serkar Kumaon to crush the rebels.
The rebels had previously defeated an imperial army under Hussain Khan.4

In the same year Sayyid Ahmad and Sayyid Hashim along with a
contingent of Barha Sayyids were sent against Chandrasen who had strengthened
the fort of Siwana. The Barhas made bold attempt and inflicted losses on
the rebels. However, the fort Siwana was only captured in 1576 under the
command of Shahbaz Khan Kambh.5

1. Akbarnama, II, 41-43; Muntakhab-ut Tawarih, II, 164-70.
2. Akbarnama, III, 47-49.
3. Ibid., 77.
4. Ibid., 143-44.
5. Ibid., 159, 167-68. Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 378-79, the author believes
that Sayyid Ahmad died in 1572-73, which is not correct because he was
with Man Singh in the campaign against Rana Pratap in 1576. See
Akbarnama, III, 166-67.
In 1576 Kr. Man Singh was sent against Rana Pratap of Mewar. He was accompanied by Sayyid Ahmad, Sayyid Qasim, Sayyid Hashim, Sayyid Raju and a number of other Barha Sayyids. Some of the Barha Sayyids under the command of Sayyid Hashim numbering about eighty were in the vanguard, and Sayyid Ahmad commanded the right wing. There was severe fighting and the Sayyids repeatedly threw the valour of Rajputs into the shade. Badauni remarks, "that if Sayyids would have held ground—— the affair would have turned disgraceful". ¹

After the victory Akbar took steps to isolate the Rana. Sayyid Hashim and Rai Rai Singh were deputed to bring to submission Sultan Deora of Sirchi and Taj Khan of Jalor. Realising the futility of resistance they agreed to submit. Hashim and Rai Singh were posted at Nandot (now Rajpipla) a border town in Gujarat to keep watch on the chiefs of those territories and to block the road to the Rana's territory. ²

Later on in 1577 another army under the command of Shahbaz Khan was sent against Rana Pratap. Man Singh, Raja Bhagwat Das, Sayyid Raju, Sayyid Qasim and Sayyid Hashim were ordered to accompany him. ³

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¹ Akbar-nama, III, 166-67, 174-76; Muntakhab-ut Tawarikh, II, 228, 230-34; Ma'asir-ul Umar, II, 403-04.
² Akbar-nama, III, 189-90; Ma'asir-ul Umar, II, 409-10.
³ Akbar-nama, III, 218-19; Ma'asir-ul Umar, II, 409-10.
In 1580 Sayyid Hashim and Sayyid Qasim were ordered to march against Chandra Sen son of Maldeo who again rebelled. After a fight they expelled him from the imperial territory.  

It appears that until 1584 Sayyid Hashim and Sayyid Qasim remained at Ajmer serving in imperial armies. They were also granted jagirs in the suba. However, in 1584, they were appointed with Mirza Khan to Gujarat who was called upon to chastise Musaffar Gujarati. The vanguard of the army was commanded by the Barha Sayyids. In the battle fought at Sarkhi, Sayyid Hashim was killed and Sayyid Qasim was severely wounded. Mirza Khan achieved a great victory but Musaffar escaped.

After some time Musaffar again revolted. Mirza Khan himself proceeded towards Cambay leaving Sayyid Qasim and other Barhas to defend Pattan; he also left Sayyid Lad and Sayyid Bahadur along with some other Barhas in the village of Hadala.

3. Akbarnama, III, 409-10, 413-14; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 409-10. Two of the other Barha Sayyid referred to in the campaign were Sayyid Bahadur and Sayyid Lad, Akbarnama, III, 423-24.
5. Akbarnama, III, 452-54; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 409-10.
While the Gujarat rebels were hard pressed by Mirza Khan, Raja Jagannath was despatched against Rana Pratap in the same year along with Sayyid Raju. The Sayyid was left at Mandalgarh, while Jagannath proceeded towards Rana's headquarters. The Rana escaped and raided the imperial territories. Sayyid Raju marched forward to pursue him but the Rana fled towards Chittor. Jagannath and Raju sometime later made a surprise attack on the Rana's residence, and narrowly missed capturing him.  

In 1585 when Mirza Khan Khan Khanan came to the court, he left Gulij Khan to defend Ahmedabad and Sayyid Qasim was appointed commander of the forces of the province. During the absence of Khan Khanan, Muzaffar once again invaded the territories of Junagadh with the help of the Jam. He gained some initial success, but Sayyid Qasim and Nizamuddin took immediate action, plundered the town of Rajkot and beat back Muzaffar.  

In the meantime while Mirza Khan was coming back from the presence he forced the Raja of Sirohi and Qasim Khan of Jalor to surrender. In both these engagements he was aided by Sayyid Qasim and Nizamuddin.

During the year 1587 and 1588 the Sayyids of Barha under Sayyid Qasim and Nizamuddin fought many battles with Muzaffar, the Jam, the ruler of lesser Kutch (Jannagar), and achieved much success. ¹

In 1590 Gujarat was assigned to Mirza Asia Koka. The Sayyids remained during his tenure of office, also in Gujarat and fought in every battle against Muzaffar, their place being as usual in the vanguard. Except Sayyid Qasim, Sayyid Bayazid, Sayyid Salim, Sayyid Bahadur and Sayyid Mustafa are also referred to during this period. ²

In the year 1591-92 when Khan Khanan was despatched for the conquest of Thatta, the Sayyids of Barha also accompanied him, for Sayyid Bahadur Barha is said to have served in the flanks. After the conquest of Thatta, when Khan Khanan proceeded to the court, he left Sayyid Bahadur along with Hasan Ali to guard the country. ³

When in 1591 Mured was appointed governor of Malwa, Sayyid Raju was placed under him. ⁴ The Prince, later on proceeded against Madhukar who was in open rebellion. But in the meantime Emperor ordered him to return from the territory of Madhukar. Raju was left to tackle him. ⁵

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1. Akbarnama, III, 524, 30-31; Ma’asir-ul Umara, 409-10.
3. Akbarnama, III, 608-09, 633-34.
4. Ibid., 598-600; Ma’asir-ul Umara, II, 402-3.
After some time Murad was deputed to the Deccan. Sayyid Raju, Sayyid Qasim and other Barha Sayyids accompanied the Prince, under Khan Khanan. Owing to misunderstanding among Mughal commanders, dissension arose in the camp, and this weakened the Mughal army when it besieged the fort of Ahmadnagar. The enemy attacked the Mughal forces but retreated without achieving much success. In the battle Sayyid Raju and Sayyid Alam were killed. The emperor assigned the jagir of Sayyid Raju to his sons. In the meantime Suhail Khan who had come with a big army to help Chand Bibi challenged the Mughals. In the subsequent battle fought at Ashti, the Mughals were defeated in the first instance. But finally, Khan Khanan defeated Chand Bibi's forces with the help of Daulat Khan Lodi, Sayyid Qasim and the Barha Sayyids.

After the death of Murad, command of the Deccan forces was given to Daniyal in 1599. In the same year Sayyid Qasim was killed while fighting the Deccanis.

1. Akbarnama, III, 698-99; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 403-4, 409-10, writes that Raju was seconded to the Deccan command.
2. Ma'asir-ul Umara, 400-03; Akbarnama, III, 698-701.
3. Akbarnama, III, 699-700; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 402-03.
4. Z.K., I, 43-45; Ma'asir-ul Umara, An interesting account of Khan Khanan's battle with Suhail Khan is given in these works. The details of the war show, the great valour shown by the Barha Sayyids and Daulat Khan Lodi.
5. Akbarnama, III, 757.
In 1600 Shaikh Farid Bhakkari along with a big army which included a contingent of Barha Sayyids was sent to besiege Asirgarh.  

After 1600, we do not get references to Barha nobles in our sources until the last days of Akbar when the Emperor was on his death bed. It appears that during this period Shaikh Farid Bhakkari was their principal mentor. We have already seen that under his command they had previously offered military service. The Barhas certainly had very intimate relations with the Shaikh.

During the last days of Akbar a conspiracy was planned by Aziz Koka and Kan Singh to arrest Salim and enthrone his son Khusrau. But Shaikh Farid collected his Barha soldiers and went to offer allegiance to Prince Salim.

The great support rendered by the Barhas was generously rewarded by Jahangir after his accession. Syed Ali Asghar who was in personal service of the Prince was promoted to the rank of 3000 and given the title of Saif Khan.

1. Akbarnama, III, 767.
2. Ibid., 797-98.
3. Halat-i Asad Beg, 52, 53. In the History of Jahangir, Beni Prasad has wrongly called Saeed Khan as a Barha Sayyid.
4. Tuzuk, 13-14; Mabsir-ul Umara, 77, 410-11; but there is no reference of mansab being given to him at this stage.
In the 1st R.Y. (1605) Prince Khusrau rebelled. An army under the command of Shaikh Farid along with a contingent of Barha Sayyids under Saif Khan and Sayyid Jalal was sent against him. The battle was unusually severe and the Barha and Bukhari Sayyids had to bear the brunt of the fight. The Barhas, as usual, were in the vanguard and at one stage about 50 or 60 of them had to face some 1500 Badakhshis. Fortunately Sayyid Kamal Bukhari came to their rescue, otherwise they would have been cut down to a man. Even then Sayyid Jalal was killed and Saif Khan severely wounded. Saif Khan was promoted to the rank of 2000/1000.¹

Later on during the 4th R.Y. (1609) Saif Khan was assigned feuqdar of Hisar and received a further promotion to the rank of 2500/1350.²

In the 5th R.Y. (1610) certain Barha nobles such as Adam Barha and Sayyid Ali, both from Gujarat were favoured. Next year Sayyid Adam was killed while fighting against the Afghan chief, Usman, in Bengal.³

¹ Tuzuk, 30; Ma‘asir-ul Umara, II, 410-11. The mansab is corroborated.
² Tuzuk, 75; Ma‘asir-ul Umara, II, 410-11.
³ Tuzuk, 86-87, Sayyid Ali was promoted to the rank 1500/700, 166, 209-10.
In 1613, Khurram was sent against Rana of Mewar. It would appear that Seif Khan was also deputed with him, because at his request the mansab of Seif Khan was increased to 3000/1500. Along with him Hisabr Khan Barha was also deputed.  

In 1615, Seif Khan Barha, Sayyid Ali Barha and Abdullah Barha were raised to the ranks of 3000/1000/1500/1000 and 700/450 respectively. In the following year (1616) Sayyid Qasim, son of Sayyid Dilawar, was also promoted to the rank 800/450.  

In 1616 news of the death of Seif Khan was conveyed to the Emperor. He had died in the Deccan, which suggests that he was transferred to the Deccan from Ajmer along with Prince Khurram when the latter was appointed Viceroy of the Deccan. His two minor sons, Ali Muhammad and Bahadur were given ranks of 600/400 and 400/200, and his nephew Sayyid Ali Barha was also promoted to the rank of 2000/1500. In the same manner Sayyid Qasim Barha was also promoted to the rank of 1000/600.  

In 1617 Sayyid Abdullah came from Deccan with the news of the peace reached with the Deccanis. He was given jagir worth ₹2,000,000.

1. Jusuk, 127; Ma’asir-ul Umara, II, 410-11, 415-16, mentions the appointment against Rana.  
3. Ibid., 159, 163. St-sad for sat rank of Ali Muhammad should really read shaah-sad; and this has been assumed in our text. Ma’asir-ul Umara, II, 410-11 does not mention about mansab being given to his son.
in return for communicating this joyful news to the Emperor. He was also given the title of Saif Khan.¹

While the Emperor was in Gujarat in the 1618, he promoted certain Barha nobles who were serving in that province. Sayyid Hizabur Khan was promoted to the rank of 1000/400; Sayyid Bayazid and other were also rewarded in the like manner.²

In the same year Saif Barha, who had been serving in the Kangra campaign, was killed along with his brethren while fighting Surajmal.³

Izzat Khan, who was serving in Bangash at the request of Mahabat Khan, had his mansab increased to 1500/800. In the same year his brother Abdul Wahab Barha was given the title of Diler Khan and his mansab was increased to 1000/500, in reward for his service in Gujarat. He was appointed faujdar of Baroda.⁴

During the Emperor's visit to Kashmir in 1620, news of the death of Izzat Khan was received from Bangash. He had been deputed by

¹. Tuzuk, 188-89.
². Ibid., 228, 230.
³. Ibid., 254-5.
⁴. Ibid., II, 40, 73; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 493-94.
Mahabat Khan to go to the hill country and ravage the crops of Afghans. The Afghan entrapped him and assaulting from all sides killed him and his brothers. Jahangir had a great regard for him and his family. Therefore, mansab and jagir was given to his minor son, 'so that those left behind should not be scattered about, and others might have increased hope'. At the same time piler Khan, a brother of Izzat Khan, was also promoted to the rank of 1000/800.  

In the same year Hisabr Khan was deputed with Khan-i Jahan Lodi who was appointed to Multan. He was promoted to the rank of 1500/600 and ordered to proceed along with his sons Sayyid Ali and Abdul Hadi.

In 1622, Shahjahan was ordered to march to Qandhar with all his troops. But the Prince who had developed ulterior motives proposed to remain in Mandu till the rainy season. The message of Shahjahan was not appreciated by the Emperor because of the growing pressure of Persians. Therefore, he ordered the prince to despatch immediately all great amirs, the Barha and Bukhari Sayyids to court. It is not known whether he complied with the orders, but certain Barha nobles were with him when he openly rebelled. Syed Khani Jahan and Sayyid Shuja'at Khan,

2. Ibid., 191, 196.
3. Ibid., 345.
who were in the personal service of the prince, are referred to in all our sources. But at the same time many of the Barha nobles remained loyal to the Emperor. When the imperial armies were deputed to fight the rebels, in the battle of Bilochpur, the Barha Sayyids were placed under the command of Abdullah Khan Firoz Jang. Although Abdullah Khan deserted in the midst of the battle, the Barhas remained firm and loyal and many of them were killed in the battle. After the battle, Sayyid Bahwa was promoted to the rank of 2000/1500.

When an army was appointed to pursue the rebels under Parvez, and Mahabat Khan along with others, Hisabr Khan was also deputed with them.

After that we have very little information regarding activities of Barhas. However, in the rebel camp, Shuja'at Khan and Khan-i Jahan accompanied the Prince all along in his marches. When the Prince proceeded towards Bengal, Sayyid Khan-i Jahan fought a battle with Ibrahim Khan Fateh Jang and defeated him; the Sayyid remained loyal to Khurram throughout. But Shuja'at Khan left the prince after Shah Jahan's


2. Tuzuk, 357-58; Ma'asir-ul Umara, I, 493-94.

3. Tuzuk, 360-61; Ma'asir-ul Umara, II, 415-16.

4. Z.K., 118b; Ma'asir-ul Umara, I, 758; II, 423-24.
defeat at the battle of Tons, when he came to know that the prince wished to proceed to Iran. He came to his home town. 1

Shahjahan after being defeated fled towards the Deccan. As Bhim was killed at Bilochpur, he made over the subah of Gujarat to Abdullah Khan who in the turn appointed Wafadar to take its charge. The officers of Gujarat under Mirza Safi and Diler Khan Barha expelled Wafadar. When Abdullah Khan came to know of it he rushed to defend Ahmadabad, but he was also defeated by Safi (later Saif Khan) 2 and Diler Khan Barha. For his meritorious service Diler Khan was promoted to the rank of 2000/1200. 3 It was at this time that Jahangir remarked about their bravery and quoted Aziz Koka as saying that ‘the sayyids of Barha were the averters of clamity for the Mughal dominion’, and added that such was in reality the case. 4

In 1623, while the imperial armies were in Ahmadabad under Parvez and Wahabat Khan, a strange event took place, in which the Barha Sayyids and the Rajputs came to blows. One of the brothers of Sayyid Kabir Barhabad some grievance against a cutler whose shop was near

1. Z.K., 118; Ma‘assir-ul Umara, I, 758; II, 423-24.
2. He was an Irani officer.
3. Tuzuk, 362-64, 366.
4. Ibid., 269.
Raja Girdhar’s lodging. This minor event took a violent turn in which Rajputs and Sayyids used bows and swords. Sayyids Kabir also came to their help. Raja Girdhar and his Rajputs closed doors to protect themselves. The Sayyids set fire to the door, entered into the house and killed Girdhar and his twenty six servants. Some Sayyids were also killed. When the Rajputs came to know of it, they armed themselves and so did the Barhais. The Rajputs assembled in a plain outside the citadel. Mahabat Khan having been informed of it, rushed to the place and soothed the Rajputs. He took some of the chief men of the Rajput and went to the house of Khan-i Alam. Parvez also reached Khan-i Alam’s house.

Mahabat Khan promised to conduct an inquiry into the matter. The crisis was averted at the moment, but the Rajputs could not be pacified. Sayyid Kabir was arrested and later on executed because Rajputs could not agree to nothing but capital punishment to Sayyid Kabir.¹

This event may have created ill feeling among Sayyids towards the imperialists, but there is no evidence to prove it.

A survey of the events suggests that Barhas had a soft corner for Shahjahan. When Jahangir died, Diler Khan who was in Gujarat was the first to come forward and render homage to Shahjahan.² Hizabir Khan was

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¹. *Tuzuk*, 274-75.
with Asaf Khan at the time of Jahangir's death, and fought against Shahryar. It appears that Shahjahan also had great regard for them. After his accession no less than seven persons of Barha families were promoted. Sayyid Shuja'at Khan who had deserted him was recalled from his home town and granted mansab of 4000/4000, 2000 du aspa si aspa. 

1. Mā'sīr-ud Umara, II, 415-16.

2. We have references of under mentioned mansabdars of Barha family in Badshahnama, for first ten year of Shahjahan's reign.

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<td>Shuja'at Khan</td>
<td>4000/4000, 2000 du aspa si aspa</td>
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<td>Sayyid Diler Khan</td>
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<td>Hisabr Khan</td>
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