CHAPTER - V

SHAH JAHAN - 1627-1658

Lahore became the arena of the struggle between the rival claimants to the throne, which ensued on the death of Jahangir, who died on 17th October, 1627, at Chengiz Hatli near Bimber, when Shah Jahan was still in the Deccan. Since his (Shah Jahan's) rebellion and defeat by Mahabat Khan, he had not returned to Agra. He had almost settled in the Deccan. We have narrated in the previous chapter the jealousy of the first magnitude between Nur Jahan and her brother Asaf Khan in order to capture the throne for their own candidates. After Jahangir's death, Nur Jahan immediately sent a secret message to Shaharyar, her son-in-law. She sent him post haste to Lahore, with as many troops as he could collect. Acting upon her advice Shaharyar hastened to Lahore to capture the throne.

The first act of Asaf Khan, on the other hand, was to send Banarsi Das to Shah Jahan, inform him of the situation at Lahore and urge upon him the desirability of reaching Lahore by rapid marches as time was a very important factor. A message was sent to Mahabat Khan also asking him to throw all his weight in favour of Shah Jahan.

The most momentous step taken by Asaf Khan was to place Prince Dawar Baksh, son of Khusrau, on the throne just to fill the vacuum caused by the death of Jahangir. "It was certainly an extremely politic move." The Prince was extremely unwilling to assume the
Imperial title, for he had a premonition of his tragic end, but he was not allowed to wriggle out. All sorts of assurances on sacred oaths were given to him by Asaf Khan and Iradat Khan.

Nur Jahan had been making almost frantic efforts to perpetuate her domination for a long time in anticipation of the crisis. So she decided to favour a candidate to the throne who was very docile and worthless. She did every thing to advance Shaharyar's cause and to bring him to prominence. But, unfortunately, just at the critical juncture he happened to be away from the scene. His absence marred his chance to a very large extent, because some of the wavering nobles, who might have sided with him, were easily won over by Nur Jahan's opponents. Even then, Nur Jahan made a final bid to retain her power.

Asaf Khan and his party marched to Phimber with Sawai Baksh at their head to take the possession of Jahangir's mortal remains. Nur Jahan had Dara, Shuja and Murangzeb, three sons of Shah Jahan with her. With the assistance of Khwaja Abdul Haseein, Nur Jahan succeeded in removing the dead body of Jahangir to Lahore for burial. Asaf Khan conciliated Sadiq Khan, the Mir Bakhshi, who was not favourably disposed to Shah Jahan and in order to assure him, Asaf Khan took three sons of Shah Jahan from Nur Jahan and placed them in the charge of Sadiq Khan and thus won the confidence of one of the most powerful generals. It was now fairly easy to deal with Nur Jahan, who was immediately put under strict surveillance by Asaf Khan.

Reaching Lahore, Shaharyar proclaimed himself Emperor. He sieged the royal treasury and all the establishment of the government at Lahore. To win the favour of the soldiery and the nobles, he could think of no other plan, but by lavishing gold on them. Within a fort-

1. Mutamid Khan, Text, p. 394
2. Mutamid Khan, Text, p. 399
4. Text, Mutamid Khan, Text, p. 114
5. Rudshahnama, Mrza Amrai Gazvani, p. 114
night he distributed seventy lacs of rupees among the worthless nobles and improvised troopers. This was probably the only method that he could take recourse to, for his bold personality, weak character, lack of experience, inefficiency and short sightedness might have scared away all the nobles. Under the command of Mirza Baisanghar, son of Daniyal he sent a force to deal with the pretensions of Asef Khan and his puppet.

The rival forces met within three miles of Lahore. Asef Khan rode on an elephant to show himself to his followers and to cheer them to fight. His troops, though not adequately equipped, consisted of experienced men who had seen many a battle. On the other hand, Shaharyar's army, hurriedly recruited, was no more than a rabble, most of whom had never heard the sound of a gun. On the very first charge they broke up and fled. When Shaharyar heard of the defeat of Baisanghar, in charge of Shaharyar's army, he retreated to the fort and closed the gates; but his doom was sealed.

From the field of battle Asef Khan moved towards the fort and established himself in the garden of Mahdi Aslam Khan. Access to the fort became easy, as Iradat Khan and Shasta Khan entered the fort at night and pitched their camp in the royal courtyard. In the morning they occupied the citadel and instituted a search for Shaharyar. He had concealed himself in the ladies apartments in the citadel, but was, on the following day, brought out by the amirs who had espoused the cause of Shaharyar. They brought Shaharyar before Dauar Buksh, and compelled him to submit. He was ordered to be imprisoned and two days later, was blinded. Shortly afterwards Tahmuras and Hoshang, sons of the drunken Daniyal who had espoused the cause of Shaharyar, were also put to death at Lahore.

1. *Lubailama-i-Jahangiri* Mutadd Khan, Text, p. 399
2. *Badshahnama* Mirza Wazir Husaivi, p. 114
5. *Lubailama-i-Jahangiri* Mutadd Khan, Text, pp. 96-97
With the concurrence of Mir Bakhshi, Ibadat Khan, Asaf Khan read the Khutba in Shah Jahan's name on January 19, 1628. On the same day he consigned Davor Bakhsh to prison. By this time Baharsi Das had delivered the communique of Asaf Khan to Shah Jahan regarding the defeat and imprisonment of Shaharyar and his supporters. Shah Jahan extolled the loyalty of Asaf Khan, congratulated him at his triumph, and with a view to test his sincerity and to get rid of possible rivals once for all, wrote him to execute Shaharyar and the sons of Daniyal. Asaf Khan was glad to carry out his wishes to the very spirit and letter which he immediately complied with.

**WAZIR KHAN - 1632-1637**: At the time of Shah Jahan's accession, Khidmat Prasat Khan was appointed the governor of the Panjab in place of Asaf Khan, when the latter was called to Delhi by Shah Jahan and was promoted to the rank of the premier of the Mughal India. Asaf Khan was a strong man and he had well controlled the administration of this province, but Khidmat Prasat Khan was a weak man and, thus, could not keep hold over the Panjab. In 1638, Shah Jahan held his court at Lahore and appointed Hakim I Alien-ud-Din, whose title was Wazir Khan, the resident of Chintot, as Governor of the Panjab. In the same year when the Emperor went to Lahore, Wazir Khan received him with all dignity. He offered to Shah Jahan one thousand golden coins, jewels, gold and silver utensils, rich stuffs, carpets, horses and camels valued at four lakhs of rupees. It was on this occasion that the rank of Mazarat Khan, the military commander of the Port of Kangra, was raised.

The Emperor again held his court at Lahore in 1631. Qandhar, which had been in possession of the Shah of Iran, since 1632, was

1. Jahangir, Jahangiri-Nasiruk Khan, Text, P. 184
2. Asal-i-Salha, Vol. II, Salha Rambo, PP. 221-23
3. Jahangir-i-Jahangiri, Nasiruk Khan, Text, PP. 301-302
4. Rashid-al-Din, Amur Khan, Text, P. 119-120
5. Asal-i-Salha, Vol. III, Salha Rambo, Text, P. 398
surrendered to Wasir Khan by its governor Ali Mardan Khan, who severing
his relations with the Shah came to Shah Jahan. Shah Quli Khan, Faujdar
of Kangra and Bakhtiar Khan, Faujdar of Lakhi Jungle, paid their homage
to the Emperor, in proportion to their ranks and dignity.

Wasir Khan governed for nine long years and during that period
there did not occur any important event. He was known as the ablest
governor during Shah Jahan's reign who gave peace and prosperity to the
people. He was a great scholar of Arabic, Philosophy and Medicine. His
accomplishments as a Physician had much attracted the Emperor and the
royal princes.

ALL MARDAN KHAN - 1637-1644: After the death of Wasir Khan, Ali Mardan
Khan was appointed the governor, in 1637. According to Mirat-ul-Hind,
Ali Mardan Khan was son of Ganj Ali Khan. He was the governor of
Gandhar, appointed by Safvi King of Iran, but later he surrendered
Gandhar to Shah Jahan in 1637, and joined the Court at Lahore, where he
was made a grandee of the first grade. He managed the expedition well
against Raja Jagat Singh of Murpur details of which will follow. This
expedition was continued for seven years and Ali Mardan Khan was the
man to control the Frontier Province and to support the generals engag-
ed against Raja Jagat Singh to subdue him. On account of his meritori-
ous services and loyalty, he was made the governor of Kashmir in
addition to the Panjab, in 1639. Shah Jahan was very much pleased with
his administration and, thus, his mansab was increased to 7,000 person
al and 7,000 horse. A sum of rupees one lakh was spent by Ali Mardan
Khan for digging a canal from the village Rajpur, near Murpur, to
Lahore, a distance of 48 jari kos. The canal was also to irrigate the
suburbs of Lahore. He attracted universal admiration at the court with

1. Badshahnama-Vol.VIII,Elliot and Dowson,P.49
2. History of Shah Jahan-Saxena,PP.136,37,310-14
3. The Oriental and Biographical Dictionary-Beals,P.283
4. History of India-Vol.VII,Elliot and Dowson,P.67
5. Murpurs is 114 miles from Lahore,through Amritsar, but the direct
distance from Murpur to Lahore, is about 90 miles.
the construction of his other public works.

REBELLION OF RAJA JAGAT SINGH OF MURPUR- Raja Basu, the founder of Murpur State was in the good books of Jahangir. On his death he was succeeded by his son Suraj Mall, but the latter proved treacherous to the imperial cause and was replaced by his brother Jagat Singh.

In 1639, when Shah Jahan was at Lahore, he appointed Rajrup, the eldest son of Raja Jagat Singh, the Faujdar of the Shivalik Hill State to collect tribute, in his place. In the following year, when Shah Jahan was in Kashmir, Rajrup who had acted in concert with his father who was then in Bangash, rebelled and Jagat Singh, through friends at the court, put up a show of feigned dissatisfaction at the misconduct of his son. He requested the Emperor to relieve him of his duties in Bangash and bestow upon him the office of his son. This would give him an opportunity of punishing Rajrup, and of collecting tribute from the Hill Chiefs, valued at four lakhs of rupees. The Emperor accepted the offer, but Jagat Singh, contrary to the wishes of Shah Jahan fortified the fort of Taragarh, with a view to rebel against the Mughals. When the news of the rebellious conduct of Jagat Singh reached Shah Jahan, he appointed three corps to commence operations against Jagat Singh under the overall charge of Prince Murad Baksh.

Murad Baksh now appointed Sai'd Khan, Raja Jai Singh and Asalat Khan to capture the fort of Murpur, and himself remained behind to

1. The History of India-Elphinstone, P. 553
7. J.A.S. of Bengal-(1879), P. 194
8. 13 miles north to Murpur (History of the Panjab Hill States- Vol. I, H. & Vogel, P. 237)
11. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal-1874, P. 194
13. Murpur (Mukut) was situated about half a way between Pathankot and Murpur on a ridge of low hills running to the east of the Chakki river. (Badshahnama- Vol. II, Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, P. 264)
collect supplies and to reinforce them. Khan Jahan left Raipur on the 29th August, 1641 in order to march by the Balhawan Pass on Murpур. At the foot of the pass he came upon Rajrup. Khan Jahan appointed Najabat Khan to engage Rajrup. The obstacles which had been set up at the foot of the pass, were forced through and Khan Jahan moved rapidly to Nashr Khawan. The enemy had blocked the roads every where, but the natives showed the Imperialists the right path. By this way the army arrived a the summit of a hill about two miles from Murpур, on the 9th October, 1641. The houses outside the fort were given up to pillage, and Khan Jahan dug trenches and commenced the siege. Sa'id Khan had in the mean time marched by way of Mount Harah, and Raja Jai Singh and Asalat Khan along with valley of the Chakki River, and—both met at 'Mau'.

Qulij Khan and Rustam Khan joined prince Murad at Pathankot, bringing orders from the court that Qulij Khan should march to 'Mau' and Rustam Khan should meet Khan Jahan stationed at Murpур. Reports h in the meantime been received that the occupation of Rupar, which over looks Mau, was necessary for the complete investment of 'Mau'. Prince Murad Bakhsh directed Sa'id Khan to occupy first the fort of Rupar. It was further directed that a portion of the troops at Murpур under Najabat Khan should join Sa'id Khan, who marched along the Murpур Pass as previously directed and halted in the neighbourhood of the 'Mau' mountain on the road to Rupar. Sa'id Khan reached Rupar the next day. Sa'id Khan advanced slowly clearing the jungle; and a force under Najabat Khan arrived in the neighbourhood of the Raja Basu's garden. The Rajputs were attacked all of a sudden from one side by Zulfaqar wi

1. -Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, PP. 235-344. It is situated at 16 mi es on Pathankot towards the east. (Arzdasht- jasvini Shaikh Jalal Missari, PP. 30, 34)
2. Badshahnama-Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, P. 363
4. It divides the district of Oordaspur from Kangra as far as Dhangu.
5. History of Shah Jahan-Saxena, P. 26
the Imperial artillery and from the other by Nazar Bahadur Khweshgi. 1
Both the sides suffered heavy losses in this fight.

Han Singh of Chilar sent about one hundred men to surprise the 2
fort of Chhat during the night who killed many Rajputs. Among those 3
killed was the commander of the fort. A portion of the fort of Chhat 3
was, thus, occupied by the men of Han Singh.

On the following day, a bastion of the Fort of Murpur which Khan 4
Jahan had besieged, was blown up. Only one side of the bastion blew up 5
whilst the other sank to the ground. The besieged had erected a wall 6
behind each bastion, which was joined with both ends to the outer wall 7
of the Fort. This wall behind the blown up bastion, remained intact and 8
actually no breach was affected; and Sayid Lutf Ali and Jalal-ud-din 9
Mahmud, who had rushed forward with Khan Jahan’s men, found the way 10
closed and got the walls to be thrown down. But unfortunately it got 11
dark and the storming party had to retire.

Bahadur Khan was ordered by the Emperor who was then at Lahore, 12
to move from Islampur to Pathankot where Murad Bakhsh was waiting for 13
him with three thousand horse and the same number of foot soldiers. On

1. - %,A u 2. One of the Zail’s headquarters of Murpur Tehsil, in Kangra District. 3. Jagat Singh had long been preparing for this emergency and had strengthened the three principal forts in his territory, viz., Murpur and Taragarh, and more in their neighbourhood and furnished them with all available weapons of war. Murpur was nearest the plains, being situated a little more than half way from Pathankot to Murpur, on the summit of the range of low hills running to the east of the river Chakki. It was really a fortified enclosure with dense jungle all round it, and was a place of great strength. Few vestiges of the fortifications now remain, as it was completely demolished under the order of Shah Jahan. The Murpur Fort, of which the massive ruins may still be seen, stands to the south-west of the town and had deep ravines on three sides. The main entrance was to the north. Taragarh which is twelve miles north of Murpur, was built by Jagat Singh about 1625-30, as a refuge for an evil day. It was a fortified hill of a conical shape, rising to 4,230 feet with deep ravines all around it. On it there were three forts one above the other, the highest crowning the summit of the hill which is clearly visible from Bakloh. 4. History of the Panjab Hill States Vol. I & Vogel, P. 287 5. History of Shah Jahan-Saxena, P. 99 6. Badshahnama- Vol. II, Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, PP. 363-64 6. Anah-I-Alba-Vol. II, Salha Kambir, Text, PP. 460-70
23rd November, 1641, 'Dental' was taken by Bahadur Khan and 'Tihari' by Allah Virdi Khan. The Emperor also sent orders that Assalat Khan should hasten to Murpur and take part in the siege and Sayyid Khan Jahan, Rustam Khan and others together with Bahadur Khan as vanguard should attack 'Mau' by way of Gangathal. If 'Mau' was conquered, it would be easier to reduce Murpur. The Prince should leave Rao Amar Singh and Mirza Husain Safavi in Pathankot and march upon 'Mau' and encamp in the Balwahan pass.

When the Prince moved from Pathankot for 'Mau' Jagat Singh became doubtful of his success, and requested Allah Virdi Khan to beg the prince to allow his son Rajrup an interview but out of envy Allah Virdi Khan forced the war on him. The prince had now himself come and he agreed to Jagat Singh's men being sent to him to settle the affairs. Rajrup appeared before the Prince, who promised to intercede on Jagat Singh's behalf with Shah Jahan. But the Emperor, to whom the Prince sent a report on the 28th November, 1641, demanded an unconditional surrender.

Sayyid Khan Jahan and Bahadur Khan were now sent by the Prince over Gangathal to 'Mau'. When they reached 'Mau', Jagat Singh engaged them in sharp encounters for five days. During these five days no less than seven hundred men of Bahadur Khan's contingent were killed and wounded and the same number of the Rajputs. It was a bloody fight which was known up to this day as "The Mau expedition, friends, is a call to death." Jagat Singh fled in this battle.

Prithi Chand was ordered by the Prince to return to Chamba, and to occupy a hill near the Fort of Taragah, the possession of which was

1. Rashahnamah-Vol.II, Text, Abdul Hamid Lahori, P. 358
2. Rashahnamah-Vol.II, Salma Khambo, P. 359-60
4. History of the Punjab Hill States-H & Vogel, P. 237
5. Rashahnamah-Vol.II, Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, P. 277
6. Taragah is 18 miles north of Murpur within the Chamba State and was built by Raja Jagat Singh in 1635-36 as a refuge for evil days. History of the Punjab Hill States-Vol.I, H & Vogel, P. 337
Rashahnamah-Vol.II, Abdul Hamid Lahori, Text, P. 374
necessary before Murpur could be taken. In fact it belonged to Chamisht but Jagat Singh had taken it by force.

The Prince reached Murpur with Sayyid Khan Jahan and sent him Jammi on 27th December, 1651. Bahadur Khan and Assalat Khan with near two thousand horse were sent to Taragarh. Raja Man Singh of Guler, the sworn enemy of Jagat Singh, joined Prithi Chand, in order to attack Taragarh from the rear. Jagat Singh, seeing that he was vigorously attacked from all sides requested Sayyid Khan Jahan to intercede for him with the Prince. The Prince at the intercession of Khan Jahan, recommended him to the mercy of the Emperor under the terms that "Taragarh" was to be handed over to the imperialists, and was to be destroyed, with the exception of certain houses which at Jagat Singh's request were to be left as dwelling places for his servants and as store houses for his property. The fortifications of 'Mau' and 'Murpur' were likewise to be levelled. This was accepted by Jagat Singh.

Jagat Singh paid his respects to the Prince on Thursday evening 11th March, 1643. Najabat Khan was ordered to make settlement for the whole district. Bahadur Khan and Assalat Khan were left in Murpur to dismantle the bastions, and the Prince with Sayyid Khan Jahan and Jagat Singh together with his sons, went to the court to appear before the Emperor. Raja Jagat Singh and his son, who were given royal pardon were reappointed to their former ranks and offices on the 10th April, 1643.

Various circumstances had compelled Jagat Singh to raise the standard of revolt. He noticed a cold indifference on the part of the Emperor towards him. His distinguished services to the crown brought to him no appreciation and honour and got frustrated. He could also hardly meet the pressing demands of the government with his meagre

resources, his 'jagir' being rocky and barren. His snatching of a part of the territories of the Raja of Chamba and the building of the fort of Taragarh in it, displeased the Emperor who regarded the existence of a recalcitrant chief on the way to Kashmir as dangerous.

Abid Khan whose title was Qulich Khan (1644-1647) was made the governor in succession to Ali Mardan Khan. During his governorship, the Mughal forces remained engaged in the Frontier Province and he reinforced the army engaged in the Balakh and Badakhshan campaign. We do not get much material about him as regards his other activities, with particular reference to this province. He died in 1654, and was succeeded by Jafar Khan.

Jafar Khan was appointed the governor in succession to Qulich Khan in 1647. He was known far and wide for his good nature and humanitarianism among all. He was just, loyal, talented and popular being a fine administrator.

Shah Jahan suddenly fell ill on September 6, 1657. He was compelled to remain confined to his bed-chamber and he discontinued coming to the court. His removal from the public gaze was regarded with great misapprehensions by the princes and gave rise to wilder speculations.

1. The Oriental Biographical Dictionary-Beale, p.148
4. The Oriental Biographical Dictionary-Beale, p.126