CHAPTER VI

AURANGZEB - 1658-1707

It was a tragedy of the Mughal monarchy that the dying eyes of the father should witness the rebellion of the son. Believing that his death was approaching, Shah Jahan had executed his will bequeathing the Empire to his eldest son Dara Shikoh, who was called upon to conduct the administration in the name of the Emperor during the latter's illness. At the time of Shah Jahan's illness Dara Shikoh was the governor of the Panjab, Shuja of Bengal, Aurangzeb of the Deccan and Murad of Gujrat. Shuja, the second son was the first to declare his independence. Aurangzeb and Murad alligned with the set intention to overthrow Dara Shikoh. Raja Jaswant Singh's force sent by Dara from Delhi opposed Shuja at Allahabad and forced him to retreat to Bengal. Qasim Khan with a large army was sent to check the advance of the combined forces of Aurangzeb and Murad, but he could not withstand the onslaught of these combined forces even though Raja Jaswant Singh had reinforced Qasim Khan at Dharmat on 15th April, 1658 after defeating Shuja. The victorious army proceeded towards Agra, while Dara collected all his available troops at the instance of Shah Jahan and met his brothers at Samugarh, which proved the decisive battle where Dara himself faced the army of Aurangzeb and Murad. Aurangzeb proved a better general and Dara was defeated on 29th May, 1659. Both the victorious brothers marched to Agra and a few days after the victory at Samugarh they siezed the fort of Agra on 8th June, 1659. Sick and old Shah Jahan was taken prisoner. Leaving Shaista Khan incharge of Agra, Aurangzeb moved towards Delhi in pursuit of Dara who had escaped towards the Panjab.

The retreat of Dara Shikoh from Agra made Aurangzeb the master
of the Indian Empire. After his defeat at Samugarh, Dara Shikoh at on
had resolved to fly from Delhi to the Panjab which province had for
been his viceroyalty and was then held by his faithful deputy, Sayyid
Chirat Khan. Lahore fort contained much of his property, as well as
one krone of rupees in the Imperial Treasury, and a vast arsenal and
magazine. He had also much influence in the Panjab on account of his
position as viceroy. He was particularly friendly to Har Rai, the sev
th Sikh Guru. The Panjab was the home of soldiers, and close to the
Afghan border where the hardest mercenaries could be enlisted. Under
these circumstances he had already instructed his Lahore agent to raise
troops and collect guns. He wrote to every quarter of this martial
province inviting the tribes to enlist and sent robes of honour to the
chiefs and faujdars of the Panjab, Multan and Thatta, and to the troops
near Peshawar, inviting them to join him.

After a week’s halt, on 13th June, 1659, with an army of ten
thousand men, Dara Shikoh reached Sirhind, where he siezed the property
of the revenue collector and dug out twelve Lakhs of rupees which the
officer had buried underground before his flight. After crossing the
Satluj, he destroyed all the boats found at the ferries within his
reach, in order to hinder the passage of the pursuing army of Aurangzeb.
He reached Lahore on 3rd July,

Reaching Lahore, Dara Shikoh opened the rich imperial treasury
and began to distribute money lavishly among his soldiers. In a short
time twenty thousand men were recruited. Some imperial commanders such
as Raja Rajaee, the chief of Nurpur and Khanjar Khan, Faujdar of Bhera

2. a na, F. 120-36
3. Abil Khan Razi, (1946), pp. 35-36
4. II, p. 277
5. Travels F. Burnier, p. 70. Situated on the left bank of the Jhelum, 11
miles from/flrani.
and Khushab also joined him. Dara secretly wrote to Aurangzeb's officers and to the Rajputs inciting them to rebel against Aurangzeb, but all in vain.

On the bank of the Satluj, at the ferry of Taiwan, he had left his chief general Davud Khan to oppose the enemy at the crossing of the river. He also sent to him reinforcements of five thousand troops with artillery from Lahore. A second party under Sayyid Chirrat Khan and Musahib Beg was asked to guard the ferry at Rupar. Dara Shikoh also then urged Shuja to make a diversion against Aurangzeb in the east and promised a partition of the Empire with him, after the fall of their common foe; Shuja was now too poor to respond to Dara Shikoh.

Dara Shikoh had hoped that the exhaustion of Aurangzeb's army after their long march from the Deccan and two severe battles fought in succession, the heavy rainfall of monsoons, and the many rivers and miry roads of the Panjab would prevent Aurangzeb from pursuing him. He hoped to get a long respite at Lahore for fortifying himself in that city and rendering it the rendezvous for his friends and adherents.

Aurangzeb, after a hurried coronation ceremony in Delhi started towards the Panjab in pursuit of Dara. He took every step to expedite the pursuit and to leave Dara no time to recoup his power. He made his naval department construct portable boats which were sent on wagons on to the ferries of the rivers.

Bahadur Khan hastened to the ferry of Taiwan. He found that the opposite bank of the Satluj was very strongly guarded by Davud Khan, the trusted general of Dara Shikoh. Bahadur Khan, then, guided by some friendly zamindars, had to rush to the ferry at Rupar, sixty miles.

1. Aurangzeb, S. Patna Lib., PP. 142-43
3. Taiwan is a village in Phillaur Tehsil, District Jullundur, on the uplands of the Satluj, Ibid., PP. 148-150.
5. "Issat Khan" says Aurangzeb.
7. Ibid., P. 164
8. Aurangzeb-Patna Lib., PP. 160-165
upstream from the ferry of Talwain to cross the Satluj. Bahadur Khan de-
feated Jhairat Khan and Mushtib Beg and with the help of boats, crossed the Satluj on the night of 4th August, 1659. Daud Khan, hearing the news of the disaster of Rupar retreated towards Sultanpur.

Another division of Aurangzeb’s forces, under Khalil Ullah Khan who was later appointed the Governor of the Panjab by Aurangzeb, made a forced march to the Rupar ferry to reinforce Bahadur Khan. Bahadur Khan was further ordered by Aurangzeb to give battle to the enemy if the conditions became favourable. Daud Khan accordingly, retreated to the ferry of Joindwal, but found that Bahadur Khan’s forces had already b joined by Khalil Ullah Khan’s. Daud Khan did not think it advisable to risk a battle against such heavy odds.

Aurangzeb himself reached the Satluj at Rupar to ascertain if road to the Beas was clear. He sent off Jai Singh and Duler Khan with the artillery under Safshikan Khan to join Khalil Ullah Khan. Aurangzeb reached Jamb Shanker on the 18th of August, 1659.

Many of Dara’s treacherous officers began to desert him to join Aurangzeb’s army. Dara Shikoh was much disappointed. Most of the fresh-
ly recruited troops abandoned the losing side and began to join the imperial forces. Aurangzeb was sending letters full of temptation to Dara Shikoh’s officers and succeeded in seducing many of them, such as Raja Rajrup, Khanjar Khan and some others. He wrote a letter to Daud Khan the bravest and the trusted officer of Dara, and contrived for it to be intercepted by Dara Shikoh’s patrols. Every word of the letter was false, because faithful Daud Khan had never corresponded with

2. *Khamsir*-Aalamgir-Muhammad Saqiq, Sarkar, p. 8
3. Title of Muhammad Tahir, a nobleman of the rank of 300, who served under the Emperor Alangir and died in 1676 A.D. (*The Oriental Biogra-
phical Dictionary* - Beale, p. 230)
4. Tahsil headquarters in Hoshiarpur District, situated at the distance of 35 miles to the south-east.
5. *Aurangzama* - *Patna* Lib., FF, 181-182
The future grew absolutely dark for Dara Shikoh who read the forged letter and sank into grief. He now became over suspicious recalled Sipahir Shikoh, his second son, from the side of the ferry of Daud Khan who was defending the Beas river. "Daud Khan, on returning to his master found him a changed man, ever turning a clouded face and casting suspicious glances at him. Full co-operation between the prince and his chief lieutenant ceased."

The might of Aurangzeb was reinforced by the four high generals of Aurangzeb, namely Bahadur Khan, Khalil Ullah Khan, Daler Khan and Jai Singh, armed with Saf Shikan Khan's artillery. Dara left Lahore, with his family and all the treasurers of the fort, guns and artillery; loading most of them in boats and on animal transport, he hastened to Multan. Sipahir Shikoh by forced marches from Gwindwal joined him outside Lahore, and so did Daud Khan. Nearly 4,000 troops accompanied Dara Shikoh.

Hearing this, Aurangzeb decided to lead the chase of his brother Dara Shikoh in person. He turned south-west towards Multan with the pick of his soldiery, making forced marches of 14 to 23 miles a day by way of Qasur and Shergarh. He reached Manaspur on the 17th and there got the news that Dara Shikoh had fled southwards to Bhakkar, and that even there he was betrayed by his own men. Therefore, Aurangzeb did not find it necessary to go further to tax the endurance of his men and animals. He henceforth travelled shorter stages but Saf-Shikan Khan with six thousand men was ordered to push on after Dara Shikoh.

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1. Amount ng more than one crore of rupees. (Alamgirnama-Calcutta Ed. P.189)
2. Aurangnama-Patna Lib., P.186-88
3. Manzar-i-Aurangzeb-Aqil Khan Razi, P.73
4. South-eastern Tehsil of Lahore, situated on the north bank of the Sat-Inj.
5. 10 miles from Sattarh Railway station towards the south-east.
6. Perhaps Manavaliya miles towards Harappa.
7. Aurangnama-Patna Lib., P.301-303
Shukoh beyond Multan and expel him from the Panjab. Khalil Ullah was ordered to stay in Multan till the Emperor's arrival. Aurangzeb reached Multan and paid his respects to the Mausoleum of Saint Shalik Baha-ud-Din where he made an offering of Rs.1,000.

Seeing all safe on this side, Aurangzeb with his whole army, reached Lahore in 1659. He put in at the garden of Faiz Bakhsh, on the road to Delhi. The following day, he was visited in state by Prince Muhammad Azim from the city, who was accompanied by Muhammad Amin Khan Mir Bakhsh and other officers of the State and in company with the prince inspected the fort. On his way back to the gardens of Farah Bakhsh, Aurangzeb said prayers in the Mosque of Nasir Khan with the congregation.

Khalil Ullah Khan was appointed the governor of Lahore and was heavily rewarded for the services rendered by him.

Aurangzeb again visited Lahore in 1661 and said the Friday prayers in the Mosque of Feroze Khan on the outskirts of the citadel and it was proclaimed that on all Fridays the congregations should perform their prayers. During that stay a sum of Rs.30,000 was distributed to the poor, through Abid Khan, Sadar-ul-Sadar. A grand entertainment was arranged for the Emperor in the garden of Bilkusha, across the Ravi.

Aurangzeb again came to the Panjab in 1668-69 when he visited Hasan Abdul and some other places of the frontier. On his way back to Delhi, he halted at Lahore for a few days in the garden of Dilkusha where he was met by the governor of Lahore, Ibrahim Khan. A grand Darbar was held in the Shah Burj. The courtiers were honoured with

1. Alamgirnama-Calcutta Ed. P.214
2. Lahore-Muhammad Latif,P.65
3. Close to the Katapul gate in Lahore.
4. Alamgirnama-Muhammad Kasim,Text,P.167
5. Situated on the top of a steep hill. It is known to the Sikhs as Panja Sahib in consequence of the mark of the hand of Guru Nanak.
dresses, among them being Ibrahim Khan, Governor of Lahore, Haji Muhammad Takir Qiladar, Feroz Khan Faujdar of Dipalpur, and Amir Khan, Governor of Kabul.

Aurangzeb governed this province by appointing his own men as the governors. He was a pastmaster in diplomacy and, thus, always appointed the trusted, strong and experienced generals to those high posts. He appointed them for a very limited period during which time, Aurangzeb could not be beaten by any kind of intrigue or secret manipulation. The full list of the governors of Aurangzeb is given in Appendix 'A'.

1. *M. Qaz, ex.P.*