Within a few months of Jahangir's accession, occurred the rebellion of his eldest son Khusrau. The Emperor had forgiven him for his past conduct on the intercession of Khusrau's maternal uncle Raja Man Singh of Amber, but the Emperor had confined the Prince in one corner of the fort of Agra, soon after Man Singh's departure for Bengal on an expedition. The Prince had not forgotten the prospects of his succession to his grandfather's throne owing to the support of his powerful nobles. Besides, he could not reconcile himself to the indignity to which he was now subjected to as a State Prisoner. He planned to set himself free and to make a bid for the throne which had once been almost within his grasp. On the pretext of a ride to visit the tomb of Akbar, a few miles from Agra, he slipped out of the fort in the evening of April 6, 1606, with three hundred and fifty horses. He proceeded northward speedily. On the way he was joined by Husain Beg Badakhshi at the head of three hundred horse and soon his followers swelled to twelve thousand. He further intercepted an imperial convoy of one lac of rupees.

Plundering the country around and seizing all available horses, Khusrau rushed on to Lahore. At night his troops quartered themselves on the poor villages, or lay down in the open fields where jackals licked their feet. Flying past Delhi burning the Sarai of Narela, they were joined by Abdur Rahim Dewan of Lahore who like Husain Beg, was on his way to the court. Khusrau invested him with the title of Anwar

2. Jalahnama—Jahangiri Text, PP. 7-9
3. 28 miles N.N.W. of Delhi (India of Aurangzeb—J. N. Sarkar, P. XVIII)
Khan and made him vazir.

In route to Lahore Khusrav reached Tarn Taran where he sought and obtained the blessings of Guru Arjan. He represented himself as a distressed and forlorn individual. From Tarn Taran he marched to Lahore which was fully guarded by Bilawar Khan who had repaired the ramparts and towers of the fort, mounted cannons and swivel guns.

Khusrav's raw levies far out-numbered the royal soldiers within the fort. To encourage them, Khusrav announced that after taking the fort he would allow them to plunder the city for seven days. When the siege had lasted nine days, news of the approach of the royal army reached Khusrav who became helpless, and made up his mind to face the royal army at the river Beas, before it reached Lahore. With a view to make a night attack on the vanguard of the royal army, Khusrav left Lahore with his ten to twelve thousand horsemen to face the royal troops.

On the other hand the royal troops under Shaikh Farid Pahhri had crossed the river Beas at the ferry of Soindwal, in pursuit of the rebels. Emperor Jahangir was at this time at Sarai Raz, where he was informed about the advance of both the armies. Although it rained heavily at night, Jahangir continued his march to Sultanpur and halted there till noon. Evidently a battle was to ensue between the two armies.

THE BATTLE OF SHAIROWAL: In this battle which took place at Shairowal

1. Laha nama-i-Jahangiri-Text, pp. 9-10
2. 15 miles south of Amritsar. The town was built by Arjan, the 5th Guru of the Sikhs.
11. De-laat, Loyland, pp. 172-176
Shaikh Farid Bohari fought with all his might and devotion. Under his command the Imperialists raised the battle cry of "Padshah Salamat" (God save the King) and charged. The engagement was short, bloody and decisive. The rebels gave up fighting and fled from the battlefield. Four hundred Badakhshis and hundreds more renowned rebels lay down dead on the field. Among the survivors, all was confusion and dependence. Several hundreds fell into the hands of the Imperialists.

Khusraw's box of jewels and precious things, which he always kept with him, fell into the hands of his enemies. The rest of the spoils of Khusraw came into the hands of the royal army who thus gained a notable victory. Then Jahangir reached Bhairoyal, he named the place of the battle "Fatehpur", the place of victory.

Prince Khusraw escaped with Hussain Neg and Abdur Rahim from the field. The deserted rebels were divided in their opinion as to the future course of action. The majority of the Indians, whose families resided hither, urged the advisability of going towards Agra, which was opposed by Hussain Neg, who argued to proceed to Kabul. He offered to place his hoard of four lacs of rupees, which he had kept in the fort of Rohtas at the disposal of his confederates if his advice were taken. He confidently hoped to raise ten or twelve thousand Mughal horse, and to entrench themselves strongly at Kabul or to attempt a successful coup de main on India, Kabul being the base for the conquest of India of Babar, Humayun and all successful invaders of India.

Abdur Rahim stopped at Lahore but the Prince and Hussain Neg Badakhshi crossed the river Ravi on their way to the fort of Rohtas.

5. Memoirs of Jahangir- Text, P.251
7. Tablighrana-i-Jahangiri-Text, P.12-14
Raja Band a trustworthy chief of Man was asked by Jahangir to pursue
the prince and to capture him. Mahabat Khan and Mirza Ali Akbar were
also appointed to help the Raja with a large force. The ferries all
over the rivers of the Panjab, had been forbidden to frequent without
proper check long before Khusrau's defeat at Tharowal so that the
rebels may not escape after their defeat. Warning had been given to all
the 'Jagirdars' and the Superintendents of roads, crossings and ferries
Hussain Beg wished to convey Khusrau across the river Chenab but at
that time Kilan, son-in-law of Salim Chaudhri of Codhara arrived, and
detected them. He cried out to the boatmen and warned them to be care-
ful. Owing to the noise and uproar, the people of the neighbourhood
gathered together. Kilan took oars from the boatmen and thus made the
boat of no avail. Khusrau was captured by Asim Nankin, and the
news of the capture of Khusrau was communicated to Jahangir, who at
that time was encamped at Lahore in the garden of Mirza Kamran.

On Thursday, April 19, 1606 in Mirza Kamran's garden at Lahore,
the defeated rebel son, with hands tied and chains on his legs was
conducted to the presence of the Emperor. Hussain Beg Badakhsh stood
on his right, while Abdur Rahim on his left, Khusrau stood weeping and
trembling between them. The Emperor witnessed the scene seated in the
royal pavilion built by his father. To punish the rebels, Jahangir
says "I handed over Khusrau in chains and ordered those two villains
to be put respectively in skins of an ox and an ass and that they
should be mounted on asses with their faces to the tail and thus taken
round the city." A bullock and an ass were slaughtered on the spot and

1. Ain-i-Akbari- Vol. I, Blochman, pp. 369, 495, 508
2. Murpur, 37 miles west of Tharmsala on the road to Bathankot.
   History of the Punjab Hill States- W. & Vogel, P. 335
3. Ain-i-Akbari-Vol. I, Blochman, pp. 369, 495
4. Codhara is an ancient town, about five miles to the east of Vazirabad
   and lies on the Chenab River. (Chiranjala District Gazetteer, p. 354)
orders of Jahangir were carried out to the letter. Horns and ears were left on the skins of the two slaughtered animals."

As the hide of an ox dries more quickly than that of the skin of an ass, Hussain Beg Badaqshi remained alive for twelve hours but died of suffocation after that. Abdur Rahim who was sewn in the ass's skin and to whom some refreshment from outside was also produced, remained alive. The culprit (Hussain Beg) died in most excruciating pain. "For good government I ordered posts to be set up on both sides of the road from Mirza Karam's garden to the city, and ordered them to hang up and impale the seditious keen supporters and others who had taken part in the rebellion. Thus each of them received an extraordinary punishment. I gave headship to those Jagirdars who had shown loyalty and to every one of the Khundungs between the Jhelum and the Chenab. I gave lands for their maintenance." Khusrau, deeply dejected, with tears and groans was slowly conducted on an elephant along the ghastly avenue and a sable bearer, with mock dignity, calling out to him to receive the salutations of his followers. His life was spared, but he was kept in close confinement.

Jahangir considered Guru Arjan, guilty of supporting the rebel prince, who had bestowed benedictions on Khusrau while he was on his way from Agra to Lahore. Jahangir imposed on the Guru a fine of two lacs of rupees, which the latter refused to pay. The Guru was consequently put to death. His sons and property were made over to Muratza Khan (Murad Nizam) the detail of which is given in the chapter to follow entitled "The Sikh and the Great-Moguls."

2. Talim-ul-Jahangiri-Text, p.16
8. The Sikh Religion-Vol.II,Macauliffe, pp.253-58
9. Transformation of Sikhism-Narang, pp.31-41
There were two more Hindus, Raju and Amba who were also punished by the Emperor, Jahangir says, under the shadow of the protection of the eunuch, Daulat Khan, they made their livelihood by tyranny and committed many acts of oppression when Khusrau was near Lahore. "I ordered Raju to the gallows and a fine to be taken from Amba who was reputed to be wealthy. In short, 15,000 rupees were collected from him. Shaikh Farid was given Bhairoval as a jagir, for his services. He was given the title of Murtza Khan. The Chaudharies who had helped the Emperor were also given jagirs.

The End of Khusrau - Jahangir himself is completely silent about the matter in his memoirs, nor does the court historian, Kutbuddin Khan refers to it. There can, however, be no doubt that the prince was blinded though not completely and irremediably. "The prince was blinded on the former battle field (Joindwal) by moistening his eyes with a certain juice resembling the sap of certain peas." "Still remaineth, still in prison in the King's palace, yet blind as all men report and was so commanded to be blinded by his father," William Finch, who travelled in 1610-11, reports two traditions current about the blinding. The Emperor, when he returned to the place where the battle was fought at Bhairoval (as some say) caused his eyes to be burnt out with a glass. Others say, only blind folded him with a napkin tying it behind and sealing it with his own seal, which yet remaineth, and himself prisoner in the castle of Agra. He learnt that Khusrau's eyes were sewn up, but that Jahangir caused them to be unripped again so that he was not blind but saw again and it was only a temporary penance." There was yet another myth to the effect that Katories (small cups) were fastened on the eyes so that the prince, when these were taken off, could see again.

1. Memoirs of Jahangir, Vol. 1, RAB, p. 73
3. Father Hasten, Journal of the Panjab Historical Society, p. 56
4. The Hawkins's Voyages, p. 428
5. Parchas IV Dela Velle (Travels in India, Vol. 1, p. 56)
Jahangir resumed his march and after a short stay at Lahore reached Agra on March 22, 1610. Khurram was confined in the palace and was closely guarded, but Jahangir was inclined towards him and called the physicians to restore his sight. Hakim Tudra of Isfahān healed the vision of one of the eyes but that of the other was permanently shortened and never entirely cured.

Jahangir appointed Shaikh Farid Bokhari as the governor of the Punjab with the title of Murtza Khan, on 11st September, 1610 in place of Dilar Khan. Jahangir wanted a strong and experienced man to govern the Punjab and that he found in Murtza Khan who governed the Punjab for six years. During his regime, plague, the most horrible disease broke out in Lahore in the first year of his governorship. The whole of the Punjab, the Subah of Sirhind and the Yamuna Doab were engulfed by the epidemic. Thousands of villages were badly affected by the disease which spread like a wild fire. Another important event of his time is the expedition of Kangra.

**KANGRA EXPEDITION**— Tilok Chand was the Raja of Kangra when Jahangir ascended the throne. Among the Panjab Hill States at that time, it occupied a prominent position and being proud of its strong mountainous situation, the Raja did not submit to the Emperor. The fort of Kangra was well-protected by a number of mountain fastnesses and was regarded as one of the strongest forts of the Panjab. It was even then regarded as so old that no one could tell the year when it was built.

Jahangir had commissioned Murtza Khan, the governor of the Panjab, to capture the fort. Raja Ruraj Mal, son of Raja Basu of the Nurpur State (Maul) was appointed as second-in-command to assist Murtza Khan. The Raja did not want that Kangra should be annexed to the Mughal

Empire. On the contrary he wished to fish in the troubled waters and during the operation he stood in the way of Murtza Khan who was just in sight of victory. Murtza Khan smelt the Raja's diplomacy and accordingly reported the matter to the Emperor, but Raja Suraj Mal had great influence on Prince Khurram and was too clever for Murtza Khan. He explained his position before the Prince and also accused Murtza Khan of having certain personal interests. Thus, the matter was hushed up before it came to the notice of Jahangir. Not much after, Murtza Khan died by a stroke of palsy, in 1616, at Pathankot, and the operation was suspended for the time being.

SADIQ KHAN - 1616-1624: After the death of Murtza Khan, Sadiq Khan was appointed the governor of the Panjab in 1616. His Mansub was raised and he was also given an elephant. The conquest of Kangra took place in his time, though he did not play much part in the ultimate victory of the fort of Kangra. However, he was commissioned along with Khawaja Abdul Hassan, the Diwan, in 1617, to expedite the concentration of forces from all directions to Sandhar. The most important event in the history of the Panjab which occurred in his time, was the fall of the Kangra fort, which happened on account of mutual jealousies of the Rajput Chiefs of the Mughal Court and mainly due to the defection of Raja Suraj Mal of Murpur, the details of which follow.

The return of Raja Suraj Mal from the Deccan in 1619 again prompted Jahangir to conquer Kangra. On the recommendation of Shah Jahan Raja Suraj Mal was given the supreme command of the expedition. Shah Julli Khan (Muhammad Taqi) was also sent with a large number of soldiers and Ahidis to help the Raja. Raja Suraj Mal, however, did not like that

1. Kazi-i-Awmar-Text, P. 447
2. Ibid., P. 219
4. History of Jahangir—Beni Prasad, pp. 397, 517, 563
5. The Oriental Biographical Dictionary, T. &. Beale, P. 188
any loyal servant of the Mughals should accompany him on this expedit-
action, for his designs were to plunder the country and to subdue it. He
wanted to conquer the fort, but did not want to bring it within the
suzerainty of the Mughal Empire. Under these circumstances, he did not
care much about the reduction of the fort of Kangra.

Raja Bikramjit, who was a veteran and a loyal general, had
already been sent to Kangra to besiege the fort after the recall of
Shah Jahan. Jagat Singh, Suraj Mal’s brother and his old rival, was re-
called from Bengal by the Emperor and sent to join Bikramjit to accom-
plish the victory of Kangra. Raja Jagat Singh was promised the grant of
his brother’s territory provided he remained loyal to the court. Shah
Jahan was appointed the over all incharge of this expedition. Abdul
Aziz Koka was also sent to help him. Hearing about this well planned
combination, Raja Suraj Mal was dis-heartened and had to change the
idea of plundering the country. But he did not like to give way without
resistance.

After a little skirmish, Raja Suraj Mal ran away and passing
through Pathankot, came to the strong fort of Murpur and prepared to
give battle. But pursuing him daunt-lessly Raja Bikramjit besieged the
fort of Murpur and subdued it. Being hotly pursued, Suraj Mal had to
fly to Targarh and from there to Shamba, for Bikramjit was at his heels
and about one thousand soldiers of Suraj Mal had already been killed.
When the news of the defeat of Raja Suraj Mal reached Jahangir he con-
ferred great honour upon Raja Bikramjit and orders were also given to
demolish the forts of Suraj Mal. Bikramjit returned to Murpur and

2. The Oriental Biographical Dictionary-Beals,PP.317-18
4. Once the capital of a Rajput State. It is situated at the foot of the
hills; 22 miles from Surdaspur. (The Land of the Five Rivers-D. Rose,
P.203)
5. The fort of ‘Kau’ was one of the strongest forts in those days, in
that part of the country. (History of India-Vol.VI, Elliot and Dowson,
pp.520,521)
conquered the forts of Harm, Pahari, Jehtaha, Policetas, Surad and Jawali, all situated in the vicinity of Murpur.

REVOLT OF MADHO SINGH: Madho Singh, the brother of Suraj Mal also rose in rebellion but was subdued though with some difficulty. Raja Suraj Mal had taken refuge with the Raja of Chamba. Bikramajit sent orders to the Raja of Chamba to surrender Suraj Mal and his property. The Raja delayed the surrender and Bikramajit moved to fight against him. In the meantime, Suraj Mal, broken-hearted, fell prey to a fatal disease and died. Hearing this, Raja Bikramajit once again asked the Raja of Chamba to surrender the property of Raja Suraj Mal. Pressed as he was, he had to surrender unconditionally the entire property of Raja Suraj Mal including fourteen elephants and two hundred horses to Raja Bikramajit.

Now Bikramajit became the master of many forts. He established his own police stations in order to keep order and peace. The forts and the buildings erected by Raja Basu and Suraj Mal were razed to the ground. Jagat Singh, brother of the late Chief, was installed in his place and a rank of one thousand zat and five hundred swars was conferred on him on the understanding that he would co-operate with Raja Bikramajit in the conquest of Kangra. The loyal servants of the Emperor were given jagirs in these parganas.

The fall of Kangra: After subduing the state of Murpur, Raja Bikramajit concentrated his attention on the important project of conquering Kangra. The fort was besieged from all sides and all roads were closed, to prevent provisions being imported, and batteries were installed all around. The siege continued for four months. A breach was made in the 

4. Ha'asir-ul-'Imara—Vol.I, Beveridge, PP. 413-14
5. History of India—Vol. I, Elliot and Dowson, p. 530
6. Ibid., p. 534
fort after a very furious attack. Hundreds of the besieged were killed.
Starvation set in and no relief was possible from any quarter. The fort
was captured on the 16th of November, 1630, and the Imperialists trium-
phantly entered the fort. Abdul Izziz Khan Naqash Bandi, was made the
Faujdar of Kangra and his mansab was raised to two thousand personal
and fifteen hundred horse.

The Emperor was very eager to pay a visit to the newly conquered
fort, often styled as impregnable. No Muslim sovereign of India, not
even Akbar, could achieve what was accomplished by Jahangir. He visited
the fort of Kangra in the company of a number of orthodox Muslim divi-
nees and the Chief Jazi. He ordered all ceremonies to be carried out
according to Islamic law in order to mark the unprecedented victory. The
Khutba was read in the name of Jahangir. A bull was slaughtered in the
fort for the first time and an order was issued for a mosque to be built
within the fort.

This ritualistic display was uncalled for and unnecessary. It was
a freak of Jahangir's mind and an isolated event which was by no means
indicative of any change in the general policy of toleration followed
by him. Jahangir then visited Bagha temple of Kangra and Jawala Mukhi,
a royal building was ordered to be constructed there. The next place
that was visited by Jahangir at that occasion was Koh-i-Madur or the
hill which was used as the churn for gods. Next day Jahangir left for
Lahore.

Asaf Khan - 1624-1628: Asaf Khan, Yamin-ud-Dowla, brother of Nur Jahan
was appointed the governor of the Punjab in 1624, in succession to
Sadiq Khan, who was appointed to conduct the operations in the Frontier Province. The Panjab prospered under the munificent administration of Asaf Khan, and his taste for architecture tended much to embellish Lahore city, but Jahangir's own end was near. Asaf Khan's last days were embittered by the treason of his sister, Nur Jahan. She began to concoct plans for usurping the empire and advancing the interests of her own son-in-law, Shah Jahan, a good for nothing fellow, to the deprivation of Shah Jahan, the rightful heir to the throne. Shah Jahan's jagirs in Hissar and in the Doab were confiscated and made over to Shahar Yar and the Prince was told to select equivalent estate in the Deccan and Gujrat. This state of affairs drove the Panjab into revolts which remained an arena for strifes for about five-six years. The subsequent history of the Panjab under Asaf Khan is the coup de main of Mahabat Khan. The events of the coup de main are narrated in detail as under:

**MAHABAT KHAN'S COUP DE MAIN**— Mahabat Khan was one of the most important nobles of Jahangir. An Afghan by birth, he held only a rank of 500 in the beginning of Jahangir's reign. He was rapidly promoted to higher ranks for rendering conspicuous services to the Emperor specially in suppressing the rebellion of Shah Jahan. But his success excited the jealousy of Nur Jahan and her brother Asaf Khan. Nur Jahan had been humiliating him very much, but the cup of his humiliation was filled to the overflowing when his son-in-law Barkhurdar Khan was beaten and sent to prison. The dowry which Mahabat Khan had given to him was confiscated on the charge that the marriage was performed without the royal permission, in contravention of the existing custom. It was also strongly rumoured that Asaf Khan was planning the arrest of Mahabat Khan. Nur Jahan prevailed upon the Emperor to send for Mahabat Khan, to Lahore, where Jahangir was encamped. When the orders reached

1. q alnama-i-Jahangiri-Tex, P.1
2. Empire of the Great Mughal—De Laet (Hoyland), P.233
Mahabat Khan in Pehar, he realised that he was no more safe and he became very desperate. He took five thousand selected Rajputs with him and left for Lahore to see the Emperor.

When Mahabat Khan arrived on the other side of the river, the Emperor on his way to Kabul, had just crossed the Chenab. He crossed the river against the royal order, not to cross it, and to leave his men behind and to present himself to the court only with his household. Following the royal camp, Mahabat Khan looked for the opportunity to have audience with the Emperor.

One day when the imperial cortege had crossed over to the other side of the river Jhelum and the Emperor was yet on this side, Mahabat Khan forced his way to the Emperor and prostrating himself before him said "Being driven to despair and fearing utter disgrace from Asaf Khan he had thrown himself under the protection of the Emperor; if he found him unworthy of his service, he might put him to death." Jahangir was taken by surprise when he found that the camp was in the possession of Mahabat Khan's men. Mahabat Khan then suggested that if the Emperor was to ride out with him for a hunt, people would take that his action was quite according to the wishes and orders of His Majesty. The Emperor patiently agreed, and was taken to Mahabat's camp.

In the excitement of his extraordinary daring, Mahabat Khan neglected to take Nur Jahan into custody. When he realised his mistake he came back to the royal camp, but found that she had gone over to the other side with Prince Shahriyar, who were the main targets of his prey.

Nur Jahan was a lady of great sagacity and courage. The unusual
behaviour of an officer had certainly annoyed her, but the main problem before her was to rescue her husband without endangering his life and the dignity of the Crown. She summoned all the chief nobles, including Asaf Khan. Rebuking them for their negligence and mismanagement which had brought shame upon all, she commanded them to retrieve their honour by rescuing the Emperor. It was unanimously resolved by the council that next morning the whole army should be drawn out in embattled array, cross the river and attack Mahabat Khan.

When Jahangir came to know of this plan, he expressed his disapproval as it might lead to a bloody conflict and even endanger his life. But no heed was paid to his advice and the plan was executed in the morning of Sunday, the 11th March, 1616. Nur Jahan herself mounting an elephant watched the movements of her soldiers. Unluckily, the ford which they selected for crossing was one of the worst of its kind and was at places quite deep. While attempting to ford the river all order was lost and confusion followed. The men of Mahabat Khan, who were holding the other bank of the river Jhelum, took advantage of it, and made a counter attack before the soldiers and officers were able to reach the land. The royalists were thrown in utter confusion and hopelessness; quite a large number of them were killed and many more were drowned. The elephant of Nur Jahan fled; Asaf Khan took to his heels and the royalist coup ended disastrously.

Asaf Khan fled precipitately for his life and took shelter in the fort of Attock. Fidai Khan, who had almost reached the camp of Jahangir, had to beat a retreat and seek protection in the fort of

1. *Iqbalnama-i-Jahangiri* - Text, PP. 180-181
2. *History of India* - Vol. VI, Elliot and Dowson, PP. 423-424
6. *History of India* - Vol. VI, Elliot and Dowson, PP. 435-436
Rohtas. The royalists having been scattered, further resistance was out of question. Nur Jahan, therefore, surrendered herself and was allowed by Mahabat Khan to live with the Emperor.

With his mind at rest, Mahabat Khan sent his son Muhrz to Attock, and himself marched slowly towards Kabul in the train of the Emperor. Unable to defend the fort Asaf Khan offered submission and was placed in custody. Mahabat Khan moved on and reached Kabul in May, 1636, taking the Emperor, the Empress and the ex-minister with him. The life at the Court seemed to be normal.

Mahabat Khan might have been afraid of dire consequences or swayed by high-handedness; he did not go beyond the limit of keeping their Majesties and Asaf Khan under reasonable watch. He did not meddle much with the administration, except probably in the appointment of a few supporters. He left almost complete freedom to the Emperor, who held darbar, received an embassy from Turan and went out for hunting. It seems that he had no greater ambition than the removal of the Emperor from the vicious influences of his opponents and reconciling him to his own interest. But Nur Jahan felt it beneath the dignity of the Crown to remain in a sort of tutelage to a "manasabdar". Nur Jahan tried to undermine his power and plotted with the dis-contented officer yet Mahabat Khan did not at all interfere with her liberty to exhibit his temper.

Mahabat Khan's supremacy was now complete. He took charge of administration, appointed his own men to key positions and took steps to put down the partisans of Nur Jahan. After about two months' stay the Emperor proceeded to Kabul, reconciling himself outwardly to Mahabat's domination. The Imperial cortege resumed its march from

---
1. Latahama-I-Jahangiri-Text, P. 195
2. Empti of the Pratg Muchal-De Last (Hoyland), P. 377
3. History of India-Vol.II, Elliot and Dowson, P. 458
Nur Jahan tried every possible method to shake off Mahabat Khan and deliver her brother from his custody. She found her opportunity in the growing unpopularity of Mahabat Khan, which was due not so much to his own abuse of power as to the influence which the Rajputs exercised over him and the jealousy of other officials. Mahabat Khan seems to have been singularly devoid of tact and sociability for, instead of securing sympathy and support for his cause, he was being rapidly isolated. Mahabat Khan was primarily a soldier and diplomat, but no statesman or even an administrator. His favourites mismanaged the affairs entrusted to them and caused resentment among the people. At Kabul there was a quarrel between his Rajput troops and a section of the royal force called the Khasis on the trifling question of grazing their horses and in the struggle that followed eight to nine hundred Rajputs were killed by the Muslim who staged a rising because of their disliking for the Hindu Rajputs. The incident though petty had far reaching consequences, for it ended in the death of several hundred best Rajput fighters in the service of Mahabat Khan, and made him more unpopular.

It was about this time that news arrived that Shah Jahan had left the Deccan and was moving towards the capital. The Imperial camp, therefore, left Kabul for India and orders were given to raise fresh troops. This was the opportunity for Nur Jahan. She had already exploited the unpopularity of Mahabat Khan. By means of bribes and promises of favours she won a good number of officers to her side and raised troops which would stand by her. In Lahore a couple of thousand soldier were recruited in her name and instructions were issued to them to join

1. History of India Vol.VI, Elliot and Dowson, pp. 673-74
2. History of Lahore-Bori Prasad, pp. 380-92
3. History of India Vol.VI, Elliot and Dowson, pp. 428-438
Mahabat, however, did not show any sign of agitation or anxiety, for the Emperor had led him to believe that he was quite reconciled to him. Asaf Khan must have felt quite amused and satisfied with the developments which were in his favour though sponsored by his sister.

By the time the Imperial cortège reached Rohtas, *Raja* Jahan found her position strong enough to take the offensive, and the position of Mahabat proportionately weakened. The Emperor began by expressing his wish to hold a review of his cavalry and asking Mahabat not to come or bring his men lest some disturbance should arise. Shortly after, another order was issued that Mahabat Khan should move a stage ahead, which in plain language amounted to an order to leave the Royal camp.

The general, who felt the ground slipping under his feet, complied. On the pretence of reviewing the troops, Jahangir placed himself at the head of the Imperial army, and Mahabat Khan feeling that his domination was at an end, left the place for Lahore. Thus Jahangir regained his liberty on the bank of the river Jhelum where he had lost his personal safety, for as soon as he allowed all of them to go back and join the Emperor, this ended the dramatic coup de tat of Mahabat Khan of one hundred days. Asaf Khan was again free to sway the destinies of the empire, while the Empress had the satisfaction of freeing the Emperor and her brother. She did not quite realize that her confidence

---

1. *History of India* Vol.: Elliot and Dowson, pp. 430-30
2. *History of Mahabat Khan*, Elliot and Dowson, pp. 374-76
3. *History of Mahabat Khan*, Elliot and Dowson, P. 36
4. *History of Mahabat Khan*, Elliot and Dowson, P. 385
5. *History of India* Vol.: Elliot and Dowson, P. 430
6. *History of Mahabat Khan*, Elliot and Dowson, P. 36-87
in her brother was utterly misplaced, and unwittingly she had sown trouble for herself.

The Imperial cortege arrived at Lahore, and the organization of the administration was taken in hand. The difficult task was entrusted to Asaf Khan, who was appointed vakil. He was also made governor of the Panjab with Abdul Hassan as his jawan. Mir Jumla was appointed hakhshi, being succeeded in the office of steward by Afsal Khan, who had rendered valuable services during the recent troubles.