CHAPTER V

JILWANIS

Jilwanis are not mentioned in our sources as a separate Afghan clan in the sense the Lodi, the Nohani, the Farauli and the Sarwani are referred to. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain whether Jilwani was a clan name, family name or a title. But a few chiefs designated as Jilwani, apparently not related to each other, are noticeable playing a prominent role in the politics of the period. We have, therefore, grouped them together in this chapter. The most prominent of them was Mian Bibban Jilwani whose account is given below.

MIAN BIBBAN JILWANI

Mian Bibban Jilwani was the son of Mian Ata Sahu Khail. He was the hakim of Sirhind during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. It seems that he too was unhappy with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. He accompanied Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi during his abortive attempt in 1525 to overthrow Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. But when Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi sustained defeat at the hands of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, Mian Bibban Jilwani also fled away towards the Mian-i Doab. While passing through the Mian-i Doab Mian Bibban Jilwani along with other amirs deserted Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi.

2. Ibid.
In February 1526, when Babur was encamped at Jasdun (Jaswan) he received an arzdasht from Mian Bibban Jilwani in which he expressed his allegiance to him. In reply Babur sent him an encouraging farman.

On February 25th, 1526 when Babur was encamped near Ambala, Mian Bibban Jilwani came and waited upon him. Soon after waiting upon Babur, Mian Bibban Jilwani had an unpalatable experience at Babur's court. Babur narrates it as following, "These Afghans remain very rustic and tactless. This person asked to sit although Dilawar Khan, his superior in following and in rank did not sit, and although the sons of Alam Khan, who are of royal birth, did not sit. Little ear was lent to his unreason." The Afghans who loved egalitarianism and had been fighting against the autocratic notion of sovereignty of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi were not aware of the autocratic notions of sovereignty of the Mughals and their court etiquettes. Mian Bibban Jilwani, therefore, could not reconcile himself to the idea of standing

in the court of Babur. He, therefore, was looking for an opportunity to leave Babur's camp, and he got this opportunity after about a month. On April 1, 1526 when the military contingent appointed by Babur against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi's generals, Hatim Khan and Daud Khan, was crossing the Jumna into the Mian-Doab, Mian Bibban Jilwani on the pretext of crossing the river fled away.  

Having fled from Babur's camp, Mian Bibban Jilwani went and laid seige to Sambhal. Sambhal was then held by Qasim Sambhali. After Babur had occupied Agra, he tells us that twice or thrice he received letters from Qasim Sambhali, requesting him for help against Mian Bibban Jilwani. Babur sent Hindu Beg along with several other begs, namely Kitta Beg, Mulla Apaq, Malik Qasim and Shaikh Ghuran to help Qasim Sambhali against Mian Bibban Jilwani. As the expeditionary forces reached Sambhali Mian Bibban Jilwani could not make a stand and fled away.

4. Ibid., pp. 528-29; Akbarnama, op. cit., p. 254; Tabagat-i Akbari, Hindi tr. Rizvi, Mughal Kalin Bharat, Babur, p. 429.
We next hear of Mian Bibban Jilwani towards the end of the year 1526 and the beginning of 1527. When Rana Sanga marched against Babur and every Hindustani and Afghan took possession of his parganas and districts, at this juncture Mian Bibban Jilwani also besieged Lucknur (Lucknow)\(^1\). Babur sent an expedition under the command of Qasim Husain Sultan (whom Badaun was given) along with several other begs including Hindustani amirs, namely, Ali Khan Farmuli, Malik Dad Karrani, Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari(?) and Tatar Khan, Khan-i Jahan. When the expeditionary forces crossed river Ganges, Mian Bibban Jilwani fled away abandoning his baggage\(^2\).

For about one year, we do not hear about the activities of Mian Bibban Jilwani. Next time when we come across a reference to him we notice that he was active with Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli and Maruf Farmuli. In December, 1527 when Babur was on his way towards Chanderi, it was reported to him that Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli had turned hostile\(^3\). Babur, therefore, despatched an expedition against Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli. Under the command of Muhammad Ali Jang Jang\(^4\).

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3. Ibid., p. 589.
4. Ibid.
Later on, when Babur was besieging Chanderi in January 1528, it was reported to him that the Mughal expeditionary forces were defeated by the Afghans and forced to retreat to Qanauj\(^1\). On way back from Chanderi, when Babur was encamped at Kanar passage in February 22nd, 1528, it was confirmed that the royal forces had been beaten by the Afghans and they were forced to retire to Rapri and the Afghans had captured Qanauj and Shamsabad. Babur, therefore, rapidly marched towards Qanauj. On hearing of Babur's approach, Mian Bibban Jilwani, Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli and Maruf Farmuli fled back\(^2\). They were pursued by Babur as far as Oudh and were driven across river Sharda\(^3\).

For about a year we do not know about the activities of Mian Bibban Jilwani. On February 22nd, 1529, when Sultan Mahmud Lodi, son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, took possession of Bihar from Jalal Khan Nohani, Mian Bibban Jilwani along with Shaikh Bayzid also joined him. According to the author, the *Tarikh-i Ser Sahi*, it was Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli who had invited Sultan Mahmud Lodi and raised him to the throne.

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of Bihar in Patna. Later on, Sultan Mahmud Lodi despatched a military expedition towards Sarwar (Gorakhpur) under the command of Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli, while he himself marched along with Fath Khan Sarwani towards Chunar.

In May 1529, when Babur was encamped near Kharid, he was informed that Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli were planning to cross river Saru. Hence, after concluding the peace with the Nohani Afghans of Bihar, Babur marched against Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli in May, 1529. On May 25th, 1529, when Babur was encamped in Chaupara Chaturmuk of Sikandarpur, he came to know that Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli having crossed the river Saru had fled towards Lucknow. Babur despatched an expedition against them with the orders to block their crossing Saru river. In this expedition apart from his own begs, several Hindustani amirs like Ali Khan Farmuli and Nizam Khan of Biana were also appointed.

On May 30th, 1529 when Babur was encamped in village Kilirah(?) on the bank of Saru river, he came to know from Shah Muhammad Diwana's son who had been sent by Baqi from Oudh that the fort of Lucknow had been captured by the Afghans. Later on, when they came to know about the march of Babur, they evacuated the fort and fled away towards Dalmau.  

At that moment Babur sent an expedition against them under the command of Muhammad Zaman Mirza along with several other Hindustani amirs, namely Mahmud Khan Nohani Qazi Jia and Taj Khan Sarang Khani to block their way at Chunar.  

On June 2nd, 1529, when Babur reached Parsaru (Sarju) he sent another expedition in pursuit of Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli towards Dalmau along with Hindustani amirs, namely Alam Khan Lodi of Kalpi, Malik Dad Karrani and Rao Sarwani.  

On June 16th, 1529, when Babur was encamped opposite Adampur pargana, he received the news that Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli after a little fighting in which they had lost several lives, including that of Mubarak Khan Jilwani, had fled away towards the

2. Ibid., pp. 681-82; Tarikh-i Alfi, Hindi tr. Rizvi, Mughal Kalin Bharat, Babur, p. 645.
Ismail Khan Jilwani was one of the supporters of Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi, as he fought with him against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi towards the end of 1525. But with the defeat of Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi at the hands of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, when Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan fled away towards the Mian-Doab, Ismail Khan Jilwani along with other Afghan amirs, namely Mian Bibban Jilwani and Jalal Khan, the eldest son of Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi, deserted him in the Mian-Doab.

Later on, as we are told by Babur, when he was encamped at Jasdun, he received twice or thrice letters from Ismail Jilwani and Mian Bibban Jilwani. Babur sent them farmans of favour and kindness. Although Mian Bibban Jilwani joined Babur's service soon afterwards (in February, 1526), there is no reference to Ismail Khan Jilwani in Babur's memoirs or any other source for nearly next three years.

We next hear of Ismail Khan Jilwani only in May 1529. After concluding peace with the Nohani Afghans of Bihar and Nusrat Shah of Bengal, when Babur was encamped near Nirhun pargana of Kharid on the north side of Saru river, Ismail Khan Jilwani came and waited upon Babur along with Alaul Khan Nohani, Auliya Ashraqi and five to six other Afghans on May 21st, 1529.

On May 29th, 1529, Ismail Khan Jilwani was conferred 72 lacs as wajh from Sarwar and was granted a khilat-i khasa and a tipuchag. He was then given leave to go to his watan. While giving leave it was settled that each of the Afghans would leave one of his sons or a younger brother for service permanently at Agra.

Thereupon, Ismail Khan Jilwani and Alaul Khan Nohani left Babur with the promise that they would come to Agra after visiting their watan. Hereafter no further reference is traceable to Ismail Jilwani.

MUBARAK KHAN JILWANI

There is only one reference to Mubarak Khan in our sources during the period under review. From this solitary reference we notice him supporting Mian Bibban.

2. Ibid., p. 679; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 514a; Tarikh-i Alfi, Hindi tr. Rizvi, Mughal Kalin Bharat, Babur, p. 645.
3. Baburnama, B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 514a; This reference is missing in the Turkish text, Mrs. Beveridge has added it in her translation from some other manuscript see Baburnama, Eng. tr. Bev., vol. ii, p. 680.
Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli in their struggle against the Mughals. In 1529, when Sultan Mahmud Lodi, son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, captured Bihar and sent Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli towards Saru, Mubarak Khan Jilwani was also with them. It was reported to Babur in June 1529 that his expeditionary forces under the command of Baqi Beg had come to grips with the scouting party of Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli and had killed Mubarak Khan Jilwani who is reported by Babur as one of the leading commanders of Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli.  

A RESUME  
In the preceding account, we have given the biographies of three Jilwani chiefs we come across during the period under discussion. But, very little is known about the position and role of these Jilwani chiefs in the politics of the period of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. It seems that Mian Bibban Jilwani held an esteemed position under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, as he was the hakim of Sirhind during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. But, like many other Afghan chiefs, it seems that Mian Bibban Jilwani was also disgruntled with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. As such, he fought

for Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi in the latter's attempt to overthrow Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. But, with the defeat of Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi at the hands of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi near Hodal, Mian Bibban Jilwani deserted Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi along with several other Afghan chiefs. The other Jilwani chief, Ismail Jilwani, whose biography is given above, also seems to have been unhappy with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, as we notice him, too, supporting Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi in his bid to overthrow Sultan Ibrahim Lodi towards the end of the year 1525. We do not even find Ismail Jilwani holding any assignment under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. Although Ismail Jilwani fought for Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, yet in the event of Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi's defeat and flight he, too, deserted Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi. The remaining Jilwani chief, namely Mubarak Khan Jilwani, whose account we have given above, is not traceable under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. He, however, seems to have been a notable person, as pointed out by Babur.

Passing on to Babur's relations with the Jilwani chiefs, it may be pointed out that only two of them, namely Mian Bibban Jilwani and Ismail Jilwani, submitted

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p. 685.
to him, though the former deserted him even before the battle of Panipat. As mentioned above, Mian Bibban Jilwani supported Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi and subsequently deserted the former. It was after he had separated from Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi that he entered into correspondence with Babur, who was then in the Panjab\(^1\), and ultimately waited upon him on February 25th 1526 near Ambala\(^2\). Obviously, Mian Bibban Jilwani had no choice but to wait upon Babur. He had already annoyed Sultan Ibrahim Lodi by siding with Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi against Sultan Ibrahim Lodi.\(^1\) After Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi’s defeat at the hands of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, there was no use in roaming as a fugitive with Sultan Alauddin Alam Khan Lodi. But his sojourn with Babur was short lived. He remained in attendance upon Babur for about a month, only to escape from Babur’s camp on April 1st, 1526\(^3\) and to defy his authority till Babur’s death.

It is interesting to note that for about a year and a half from the time of his escape from Babur’s camp, Mian Bibban Jilwani did not join hands with any other Afghan chief and continued to act individually to

2. Ibid., p. 466.
3. Ibid., pp. 467-68.
carve out a position for himself from amongst the remnants of the Lodi empire. First we notice him trying to capture Sambhal from Qasim Sambhal\(^1\) and then besieging Lucknur before the battle of Kanwah\(^2\). On both these occasions, when the Mughal forces were sent against him he avoided pitched battles with Mughals and fled away. But when he failed to carve out a position for himself individually he allied himself with Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli and Mian Maruf Farmuli. In 1528 he fought against the Mughals in alliance with Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli and Maruf Farmuli and achieved considerable success against the Mughals\(^3\). In the year 1529, the scope of the alliance of Mian Bibban with other Afghans was further widened. In this year, when Sultan Mahmud Lodi occupied Bihar, Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli joined hands with him. Although Babur succeeded in driving back Sultan Mahmud Lodi, yet Mian Bibban Jilwani in alliance with Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli continued to defy Babur's authority and never submitted to him.

Of the other, Mubarak Khan Jilwani also never submitted to Babur. He died fighting for Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli against the Mughals in 1529\(^4\).

2. Ibid., p. 582.
3. Ibid., p. 598.
4. Ibid., p. 685.
The only Jilwani chief who submitted to Babur and received from him a revenue assignment was Ismail Jilwani. Although he had sent an arzhdasht to Babur expressing his allegiance to him before the battle of Panipat, yet he did not wait upon Babur till May, 1529. He was then highly favoured by Babur, who conferred upon him 72 lacs as wajh from Sarwar and honoured him with the grant of a khilat-i khasa and a tipuchaq horse. However, we do not notice any Jilwani chief rendering military service to Babur. In short, Jilwanis hardly contributed to the expansion or consolidation of Babur's authority in Hindustan. On the other hand, Mian Bibban Jilwani was a constant threat to Babur along with the Farmuli chief, Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli.