CHAPTER IX

CHIEFS ALLIED TO AFGHANS:
SHARQI, MULTANI, MEWATI AND BHAKHARI

In this chapter we propose to discuss those chiefs about whom we are not certain as to whether they were Afghans or not, but who appear to be a part of Afghan polity and Afghan nobility. The chiefs we have grouped in this chapter are the Sharqi, Mewati, Multani and the Bhakhari. We know that Jaunpur was ruled for a long time by the Sharqi dynasty until the last Sharqi ruler Sultan Husain Sharqi, was overthrown by the Lodis and Jaunpur was incorporated into the Lodi kingdom. The descendants of the Sharqi ruling family seem to have been absorbed into the Lodi polity and retained same privileges. One of the Sharqi princes, Jalaluddin Sharqi, styled as "Sultan", still survived till the period of our study.

As far as the Mewatis are concerned, though they were not Afghans, yet by virtue of the fact that the ruling family of Mewat acknowledged the suzerainty of the Lodis and at least one of them, e.g., Firoz Khan Mewati, was definitely an amir of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, we have included the Mewatis also in this chapter. Of the other chiefs included in this chapter, one is identified as Multani and the other as Bhakkari.
We begin with Jalaluddin Sharqi. According to the author of *Tarikh-i Firishta*, Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi belonged to the Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur. We first notice Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi in Babur’s service in the year 1529. On February 25th, 1529, marching against Mahmud Khan Lodi, son of Sultan Sikandar Lodi, when Babur was encamped at Sarai Munda, Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi came along with his younger sons and waited upon Babur. Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi had his residence in Karrah fort, but he also seems to have held Benaras, for when Benaras was attacked by Sultan Mahmud Lodi the fort was garrisoned by the men of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi.

On March 1st, 1529, when Babur was encamped at Kusar near Karrah Manikpur, Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi offered hospitality to Babur. Babur spent four days in that camp and later visited the house of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi inside Karrah fort, where he served cooked meat, and other ‘viands’ to Babur. Babur bestowed upon Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi and his sons dressess of honour. On

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Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi's request Babur conferred the title of Sultan Mahmud upon his elder son. Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi also presented a boat to Babur.

Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi rendered military services to Babur on various occasions. He is first found serving Babur in the battle of Ghagra. He was given the charge of one of the four divisions formed in the battle. On May 25th, 1529, when Babur came to know that Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli had fled towards Lucknow, he appointed Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi along with several other Hindustani amirs, namely Ali Khan Farmuli and Nizam Khan of Biana, to check enemy's crossing of the Saru river. This is the last reference to Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi in our sources during the period under review.

SONS OF SULTAN JALALUDDIN SHARQI

There is only one reference to the sons of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi. In March, 1529, when Babur, on his way towards Bihar, visited the house of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi in Karrah he also came in contact with the sons of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi. Babur says that he bestowed dresses of honour upon the sons of Sultan.

2. Baburnama, op. cit., p. 663; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 505a.
3. Ibid., p. 669; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 508b.
4. Ibid., p. 676; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 515a.
Jalaluddin Sharqi. He further tells us that on the request of Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi, he honoured his eldest son with the title of Sultan Mahmud. There is no further reference to Sultan Mahmud or the other son of Jalaluddin in Babur's time.

HASAN KHAN MEWATI

Hasan Khan Mewati was the son of Alawal Khan Mewati. Mewat was an independent principality before the establishment of the Afghan power in Hindustan. Sultan Bahlol Lodi, after having established his power firmly on the throne, marched towards Mewat. At that time Ahmad Khan Mewati was the ruler of Mewat. Ahmad Khan submitted to him. After confiscating seven parganas from Ahmad Khan Mewati, the Sultan allowed the remaining parganas to be retained by Ahmad Khan as iqta. Ahmad Khan, thereafter, remained loyal to the Lodis.

When Babur conquered Lahore and Dipalpur in the year 1524, as we are told by him, at that time Hasan Khan Mewati was busy in constructing his new capital at Alwar. Later on, in April, 1526, Hasan Khan Mewati most

2. Ibid., p. 652; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 520b.
probably, fought for Sultan Ibrahim Lodi in the battle of Panipat against Babur, for one of his sons Nahar Khan by name, fell captive into the hands of the Mughals and they kept him as a hostage.

When Babur occupied Agra, Hasan Khan Mewati was still in Mewat and even refused to submit to Babur. Hasan Khan Mewati sent one of his trustworthy men, namely Karam Chand, to Babur to get his son released but failed. Later on several amirs requested Babur that if he released Nahar Khan, Hasan Khan Mewati might join Babur's service. Finally, Babur after giving a robe of honour to Nahar Khan sent him to his father with the expectation that Hasan Khan Mewati would reconsider his position. When Hasan Khan Mewati came to know about the release of his son, he hurriedly joined Rana Sanga shattering Babur's hopes.

Hasan Khan Mewati fought for Rana Sanga in the battle of Kanwah with a force of 12,000 cavalry. He lost his life in the battle of Kanwah. Consequently,

5. Ibid., p. 562.
6. Ibid., p. 573.
Babur marched into Mewat and occupied it. He appointed two of his begs in Mewat, one at Tijara and the other at Alwar.\(^1\)

**NAHAR KHAN MEWAT**

Nahar Khan was the son of the above mentioned Hasan Khan, the ruler of Mewat. He had fought with Sultan Ibrahim Lodi against Babur in the battle of Panipat. With the defeat and death of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi at Panipat Nahar Khan fell a captive to Babur. When Nahar Khan was under the detention of Babur at Agra his father Hasan Khan sent a number of messages to Babur to secure his release. Babur says that he released Nahar Khan hoping that on his release his father Hasan Khan would join him\(^2\). But Babur was disappointed in this respect, as described above.

After his victory over Rana Sanga and the death of Hasan Khan Mewati in the battle of Kanwah, Babur decided to attack Mewat. As Babur reached near Alwar, Nahar Khan sent his envoy, Karam Chand, to Babur praying for peace. Babur on his part, sent Abdul Rahim Saghawal to Nahar Khan. Shortly afterwards Abdul Rahim brought Nahar Khan to Babur's presence. Babur favoured Nahar Khan by

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2. Ibid., p. 545; B. I. Or. 3714, f. 434b.
conferring upon him a pargana with a few lacs as his wajh\(^1\). However, when Babur was returning from Mewat, towards Agra and was still in the territories of Mewat, Nahar Khan fled from the custody of Abul Rahim Saghawal\(^2\). Thereafter, we do not hear about him.

FIROZ KHAN MEWATI

Firoz Khan Mewati was one of the amirs of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. At the time of Babur's occupation of Agra he was inside the fort of Agra. Babur tells us that of the soldiery within the fort of Agra there were three wise men( dana) namely, Firoz Khan Mewati, Malik Dad Karrani and Milli Surduk. Though, initially Babur had ordered the execution of all three of them, but after about four or five days they were pardoned and their property (jami-i jihat) were restored to them and they were conferred parganas by Babur and included among his assignees. After that there is no reference to Firoz Khan Mewati\(^3\).

MUJAHID KHAN OF MULTAN

Towards the end of the year 1526, Hamid Khan Sarang Khani had collected 3 to 4 thousand Afghans, including the Pani Afghans and had become troublesome.

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3. Ibid., pp. 477-78; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 370b; Tarikh-i Alfī, Hindi tr. Rizvi, Mughal Kalin Bharat, Babur, p. 636.
in Hisar Firoza. In such circumstances Babur despatched a military expedition against him. Mujahid Khan of Multan and Malik Dad Karrani were appointed in this expedition. They defeated Hamid Khan Sarang Khani's forces. This is the only reference to Mujahid Khan of Multan. Thereafter, we do not hear of him.

SHAIKH MUHAMMAD OF SHAIKH BHAKHARI

There is only one reference to Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari. From this solitary reference we notice him rendering military service to Babur. Before the battle of Kanwah, Mian Bibban Jilwani had besieged Lakhnur. After the battle of Kanwah, Babur appointed Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari along with several other Hindustani amirs, namely Ali Khan Pirmuli Malik Dad Karrani and Tatar Khan Khan-i Jahan to march against Mian Bibban Jilwani.

A RESUME

From the above mentioned biographical account we learn that at least one of the above mentioned chiefs, namely Firoz Khan Mewati, was definitely in the service of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. He is mentioned by Babur as one of the wise men (dana) and an amir of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi.

2. Ibid., p. 582.
It has not been possible to ascertain his relationship with the ruling family of Mewat. The other Mewati chiefs, Hasan Khan and his son Nahar Khan may not have been in the service of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, but they acknowledged his suzerainty. In any case, all the three Mewati chiefs seem to have remained loyal to Ibrahim Lodi almost till his death. Hasan Khan Mewati even fought for Sultan Ibrahim Lodi in the battle of Kanwah against Babur.

Nothing is known about Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi and his family during the reign of Sultan Ibrahim Lodi. The little that is known about him, that he had his house at Karrah. The fact that he bore the title of 'Sultan' suggests that the Lodis must have conferred this title upon him or recognised the right of using this title by Jalaluddin Sharqi. However, Jalaluddin Sharqi does not figure in the politics of the Lodi period. The names of the other two chiefs, Mujahid Khan of Multan and Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari, are not even traceable during the Lodi period. Of the above mentioned chiefs, only Hasan Khan Mewati and his son Nahar Khan Mewati had a principality to rule, the revenues of which were 3 to 4 crores. Firoz Khan Mewati, too, by virtue of

1. Baburnama, Eng. tr. Bev., vol. ii, p. 577; While giving an account of Mewat, Babur mentions that the total jama of Mewat was 3 to 4 crore, but in the revenue list of the Baburnama the total jama of Mewat is mentioned as 1 crore 60 lacs and 80 thousand tankas, see, p. 521.
of being an amir must have held an iqta under Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, but there is no information about his iqta.

Regarding the process of subjugation of these chiefs by Babur it may be pointed out that Hasan Khan Mewati never submitted to him. He, in fact, died fighting for Rana Sanga in the battle of Kanwah against Babur. His son Nahar Khan also did not submit voluntarily to Babur, but was captured. After his father’s death when Mewat was over-run by Babur in March 1527, he was obliged to wait upon Babur, but shortly afterwards he escaped from the Mughal custody. As far as Firoz Khan Mewati is concerned, he being in Agra fort at the time of Babur’s occupation of Agra had no alternative but to submit to him.

The Sharqi chief, Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi, seems to have submitted to Babur sometime before 1529, for, when we first notice him on February 22nd, 1528, we find him loyal to Babur. The other two chiefs, namely, Mujahid Khan of Multan and Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari, are first noticed in Babur’s service towards the end of the year 1526 and in the beginning of 1527, respectively.

2. Ibid., p. 581; B. M. MS. Or. 3714, f. 459b.
We notice three of these chiefs rendering military service to Babur. Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi rendered meritorious military services to Babur against Sultan Mahmud Lodi by defending Benaras against the latter's attack. He also served Babur in the battle of Ghagra and then against Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid Farmuli in 1529. Mujahid Khan Multani rendered military service against Hamid Khan Khasa Khail Sarang Khani towards the end of 1526, while Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari was commissioned in the expedition against Mian Bibban Jilwani who had besieged Lucknur before the battle of Kanwah. The following table illustrates the military services given to Babur by the above mentioned chiefs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Particulars of the expedition</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi</td>
<td>(i) His men defended Benaras against Sultan Mahmud Lodi.</td>
<td>B.N.ii/652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Also served against Mian Bibban Jilwani and Shaikh Bayzid (1529)</td>
<td>B.N.ii/669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mujahid Khan of Multan</td>
<td>Against Hamid Khan Khasa Khail Sarang Khani (1526)</td>
<td>B.N.ii/540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaikh Muhammad of Shaikh Bhakhari</td>
<td>Against Mian Bibban Jilwani who had besieged Lucknur before the battle of Kanwah (1527)</td>
<td>B.N.ii/582</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However, only two of the above mentioned chiefs were favoured by Babur with the grants of revenue assignments. One of them was Firoz Khan Mewati who was given a pargana and the other was Nahar Khan Mewati who was also given few parganas of the value of several lacs. Since Nahar Khan Mewati fled away from the camp of Babur soon after the bestowal of the parganas, never to be heard of again.

To sum up, only Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi seems to have been a highly favoured chief out of those discussed in this chapter. Babur not only visited his house for food, but also bestowed dresses of honour upon him and his son. Babur also conferred the title of "Sultan" upon his son. Sultan Jalaluddin Sharqi on his part offered a boat to Babur which was named by him as "Gunjaish" (Capacious).