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The History Of Hindostan; From The Earliest Account Of Time, To The Death Of Akbar; Translated From The Persian Of Mahummud Casim Ferishta Of Delhi

Together With A Dissertation Concerning the Religion and Philosophy of the Brahmins ; With An Appendix, Containing the History of the Mogul Empire, from its Decline in the Reign of Mahummud Shaw, to the present Times ; In Two Volumes

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Section I. The history of Akbar, from his Accession, to the Defeat of Himu.

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 P A R T VI.

 The Reign of SHAW JUMJA ABUL MUZIFFER
 GELLAL UL DIEN MAHUMMUD AKBAR
 PADSHAW GHAZI.

SECTION I.

The History of AKBAR, from his Accession to the Defeat
and Death of HIMU.

SHECH ABUL FAZIL, the most elegant writer of Hindostan,
has given to the world the history of the renowned Akbar,
in three volumes, called Akbar namma. From that historian,
we shall chiefly extract the transactions of this reign.

A. D. 1555
Higer. 963.

When Humaion became insensible after his fall, the
Omrahs sent Shech Chuli express to Punjab, to acquaint
Akbar of the accident which had befallen his father. Not many
days after, the news of his father's death came to the prince at
Callanore. The Omrahs, who were present, after expressing
their grief for the deceased, raised Akbar to the throne, on the

Mahummud
Akbar mounts
the throne at
Callanore.



A. D. 1555.
Higer. 963. second of Rubbi ul Sani, in the year 963, being then thirteen years and nine months old.

Byram's wife
administra-
tion.

Byram Chan, on the accession of Akbar, became absolute regent, and had the whole civil and military power of the empire in his hands. The first orders issued from the throne, after dispatching the letters of proclamation, were, to prohibit the extraction of Peshcush money, from the farmers; to let all goods pass toll-free, and to prevent the injurious practice of pressing labourers to the war.

Abul impri-
soned at La-
hore.

Not many days after the accession of Akbar, Shaw Abul Mali, who began to discover treasonable intentions, was seized and imprisoned in Lahore. He, however, found means, some time after, to escape; and Pulwan Gul, the Cutwal, to whose charge he was committed, killed himself.

Akbar de-
feats Secun-
der Shaw.

The king led his army towards the hills, with a view to exterminate the party of Secunder Shaw: he defeated Secunder, and obliged him to fly farther among the mountains; whither the imperial army could not pursue him. Akbar, in the mean time, subdued the country of Nagracot; received the Raja of that province into favor; and the rains coming on, took up his quarters at Jallender.

Mirza Soli-
mân rebels in
Buduchshan.

In the mean time, Mirza Solimân, who had been left governor of Buduchshan, threw off his allegiance, set up for himself, and marched against Cabul. That city was defended by Monim Chan, the tutor of Mahammud Hakim, the king's brother. Intelligence of this rebellion being brought to Akbar, he immediately detached Mahummud Kulli Chan Burlafs, Chan Azim, Chizer Chaja, and other Omrahs, to succour Monim Chan.

Some

Some of those Omrahs entered Cabul, while others encamped without, to harass the besiegers; which they continued to do for the space of four months. The garrison, in the mean time, became to be distressed for provisions; which obliged Monim Chan, to consent, that the chutba, for the kingdom of Cabul, should be read in the name of Solimân. The rebel, after this submission, raised the siege, and returned to Buduchshan.

A. D. 1555.
Higer. 963.

During these transactions at Cabul, Himu, the vizier of Mahummud Shaw Adili, of Bengal, advanced towards Agra, with thirty thousand horse and two thousand elephants. He obliged Secunder Chan, the governor of that city, to retreat to Delhi. Shadi Chan, an Afghan Omrah of Shaw Adili, in the mean time, raised an army, and advanced to the banks of the Rehib; where Alli Kulli Chan Seifiani, entituled Chan Ziman, with three thousand horse, crossing the river, attacked him, but was defeated; and carried only two hundred of his army, alive, from the field; those who escaped the sword, being drowned in the river.

Cabul sub-
mits to him.

Himu, the
vizier of Shaw
Adili, takes
Agra,

Himu having taken Agra, marched towards Delhi, where Tirdi Chan commanded. Tirdi sent expresses to all the Omrahs around, soliciting succours, and was joined by Abdulla Chan, Lal Sultan Buduchshi, Alli Kulli Inderani, Merick Chan Kullabi, and others; and then he thought himself in a condition to give the enemy battle, without waiting for Chan Ziman; who, with several other Omrahs, and a considerable reinforcement, was marching to his assistance. Himu, who was a very valiant man, selected three thousand chosen horse, and some of his best elephants, which he posted about his own person in the center; and with which he charged Tirdi Beg so violently, that he drove him quite off the field. Himu then fell, with great impetuosity,

advances to
Delhi,

defeats Tirdi
Beg, and takes
Delhi.



A. D. 1555.
Higer. 593.

upon the right wing, which he routed so that the flight became general. This victory was so compleat, that in consequence of it, the city immediately surrendered; and Tirdi Beg, flying to Sirhind, left all the country open to the enemy. Chan Ziman, having received intelligence of this disaster, at Merat, hastened also to Sirhind.

The king
in great per-
plexity.

Devolves his
power upon
Byram Chan.

The king, during these transactions, was at Jallender; and, finding all his dominions, except Punjab, wrested from him, was greatly affected with the news of Himu's success. He called to him Byram Chan, then distinguished by the name of Chan Chanan, and conferred upon him the honorable title of Chan Baba*. He told that able man, that he reposed his whole trust in his prudence and good conduct, in this perilous situation of affairs, and desired that he might take whatever measures he thought most conducive to retrieve his affairs. He, at the same time, assured Byram, in the most solemn manner, that he would give no attention to any malicious insinuations which might be suggested to the royal ear by his enemies. The young prince having thus expressed the genuine sentiments of his soul to Byram, he made him swear, by the soul of his father Humaioon, and by the head of his own son, that he would be faithful to the great trust, which was now reposed in him.

A council of
war is called.

A council of war was immediately called, in which Byram Chan presided. The majority of the Omrahs were of opinion, that as the enemy consisted of above a hundred thousand horse, while the royal army scarce amounted to twenty thousand, it would be most prudent to retreat to Cabul. Byram Chan strenuously opposed this measure, and was almost singular in his

* Baba signifies father.

opinion,



opinion, which was to give battle instantly to the enemy. The young king joined Byram's sentiments with so much warmth and gallant anxiety, that the Omrahs cried out, in rapture, that their lives and fortunes were at his service.

A. D. 1555.
Higer. 963.

It is resolved
to engage the
enemy.

Immediate hostilities being resolved upon, Chaja Chizer Chan, who was married to the king's aunt, Gulbaddin Begum, was appointed governor of Lahore, to act against Secunder Shaw; while the king himself prepared, in person, to chastise Himu. He marched to Sirbind, and was there joined by his defeated Omrahs, who had assembled at that place.

The king
marches a-
gainst Himu.

The king being out, one day, at the diversion of hawking, Byram Chan, called Tirdi Beg to his tent, and ordered him to be beheaded for abandoning Delhi, where he might have defended himself, and for other unmilitary crimes, with which he was justly charged. When Akbar returned, Byram Chan waited upon him, and informed him of what he had done; he excused himself for not acquainting the king of his intentions, by insinuating, that he was certain his royal clemency was so great, that notwithstanding Tirdi's crimes, he would have forgiven him; which, at such a time, would be attended with very dangerous consequences, as the hopes of the Moguls rested upon every individual's strict performance of duty. He affirmed, that negligence was, in such a critical situation, as great a crime as treason, and ought to meet with an equal punishment. But that, on the other hand, desert should meet with reward: for a dangerous crisis, is the season of strict justice, in both respects. Without his reward, the soldier becomes languid and discontented; when he fears no punishment, he becomes negligent and insolent.

Byram Chan
punishes Tir-
di Beg.

The



A. D. 1556.
Higer. 964.

The king saw into the propriety of the measure, but he shud-
dered at the inhumanity of the punishment. He, however,
thanked Byram for the service which he had done him; and, in-
deed, though the policy of that minister was severe, it had the
intended effect among the Omrahs. They saw that they had
nothing to hope, and every thing to fear from faction and bad
behaviour; and therefore, they became very obedient to the
orders of Byram Chan.

Akbar mar-
ches towards
Delhi.

The king soon after marched from Sirhind towards Delhi,
detaching Secunder Chan, Abdulla Chan, Alla Kulli Inderani,
Lal Sultan, Mahummud Chan Jellaher, Mudjenu Chan Cashkal,
and others, under the command of Chan Ziman, Amir ul
Omrah*, some miles in his front. Himu, who had assumed
the title of Raja Bickermajit, in Delhi, having attached Shadi
Chan, and other Afghan Omrahs to his interest, marched out of
that city with all his forces; which, by the lowest computa-
tion, exceeded a hundred thousand horse, besides elephants and
infantry, with a great train of artillery. He detached, in front,
a great body of Afgans, with some artillery, which falling in
with Chan Ziman, were defeated by that general, with the loss
of all their guns, which proved a signal advantage to the king.
Himu having arrived at Panniput, heard that the king was ad-
vanced very near him. He divided his elephants, in which he
greatly confided, among his principal officers.

The van-
guard of the
Afgans de-
feated.

Himu arrives
at Panniput.

A general ac-
tion.

In the morning of the second of Mohirrim, 964, Chan Ziman,
who had been, by that time, joined by the whole army except
a few, who remained to guard the king, drew up in order of
battle, and waited the attack. Himu began the action with his

* Captain-general.

elephants,



elephants, in hopes of frightening the Mogul cavalry, who were not accustomed to those enormous animals. He, however, found that he was deceived. The Chigittai Omrahs, either from a fear of the fate of Tirdi Beg, or from a nobler cause, their own valor, attacked Himu, with such resolution, after he had penetrated the center of the Mogul army, where Ziman commanded, that the elephants, galled with lances, arrows and javelins, became quite outrageous, and submitting no longer to command, fell back and disordered the Afgan ranks.

A. D. 1556.
Higer. 964.

The Afgans
broke.

Himu, who rode a prodigious elephant, still continued the action with great vigor, at the head of four thousand horse, in the very heart of the Moguls; being at last, pierced through the eye, with an arrow, the greatest part of his troops, fearing that his wound was mortal, forsook him. But that valiant man, drew the eye out of the socket, with the arrow; and, in that terrible condition, continued the fight with unequalled resolution and courage. He encouraged the few who remained by his side, and advanced through a bloody path which his weapons made; till Kulli Chan Mhiram stretched his spear to kill the driver of Himu's elephant: that timorous wretch, to save his own life, pointed to Himu, and addressing him, by name, said, he would carry him whithersoever he pleased. Kulli Chan, immediately surrounded him with a body of horse, and carried him prisoner to Akbar, whom Byram Chan, as upon him rested the hopes of all, detained in the rear.

The bravery
of Himu.

He is taken
prisoner.

When the unfortunate Himu was brought into the presence, almost expiring with his wounds, Byram Chan told the king, that it would be a meritorious action in him, to kill that brave infidel with his own hand. Akbar, in compliance to the advice of his tutor, drew his sword, but only gently touched the head

and slain.

of

