

130. Installation of Ghazan Khan on the Throne of Mir of Hunza (1863 AD)

As it has already been mentioned, that Mir Ghazanfar had five sons Eldest one was Ghazan Khan, second Bakhtawar Shah, third Naunihal Shah, fourth Rehan Shah and the fifth was Tawakkal Shah From among all five of them Ghazan Khan had pinned his hopes for the support, backing and sponsorship of Wazir Asadullah Beg and his followers and companions. Bakhtawar Shah had the backing, support and sponsorship of Mr. Mamum son of Mr. Domoyo and his companions, Rehan Shah, who was staying at Chaprot as the Mir's representative had been aspiring and secretly wishing to become the Mir of Hunza with the help and assistance of his own well-wishers, close companions and advisers.

However after the burial of Mir Ghazanfar Khan and after completing the necessary rituals and other customary proceedings of the burial and funeral event. The notables and other Important officials and personalities called "Mutabiran" and Trangfahs to Hunza convened a gathering and assembled for a meeting at the location of "Shumal Bagh" of Beeshkar under the leadership of Wazir Asadullah Beg. All available sons of Mir Ghazanfar Khan called Mir Zadagaan were also allowed and made to sit in this grand Jirga meeting of the notables. This was a very serious and a very formal meeting Mir Zada Ghazan Khan was given the highest and the most senior seat in this assembly and Wazirzada Dado Dara Beg son of Wazir Asadullah Beg stood as his guard behind him with his sword drawn and ready. The main agenda of the assembly and this meeting was thrown open for discussion and it was thoroughly discussed. Some very heated and well participated discussions took place. Finally at the end of these heated discussions and debate. Wazir Asadullah Beg rose from his seat to give a final shape and a conclusion to this long discussion and debate. He delivered his speech to the assembly and addressed them as follows:-

"Oh! The respectable notables, functionaries, advisers, subjects and companions of Mir Ghazanfar!! please be informed and be mindful of the tact that Hunza as of today is In a flourishing condition and a well cultivated well organized and illuminated domain inhabited by a civilized people. Please do not indulge in its sabotage and destruction. Shah Ghazanfar has passed away with a good name and with an excellent reputation. He has left behind a good legacy and enviable tradition for us all. Today, it is imperative for us to maintain his this good reputation, tradition and legacy and should not create dirty dusts of disunity and malice on the skies of Hunza. Instead we must all unite together and Install as Mir the one who is the most deserving and we must do it With complete unanimity of views and oneness of decision. I, who have remained the Wazir of Mir Ghazanfar Khan and am still the Wazir of Hunza, consider It my sacred and primary duty and responsibility to put before you the facts and the reality and the truth alone. As of now the truth is that Ghazan Khan is the eldest son of Mir Ghazanfar Khan. and by virtue of this very fact the crown and the gown of honor of the Mir of Hunza is but suited and befitting to his head alone:

At the conclusion of this closing address all the notables and the officials attending this meeting had no choice but to accept this verdict willy-nilly. They had, therefore, to agree with the final decision of Wazir Asadullah Beg. Wazirzada Dado Dara Beg, therefore, placed the cap/crown of Mirship on the head of Ghazan Khan and handed him over the royal sword. On this

everyone attending this assembly rose from his seat and in turn kissed the hands of Ghazan Khan and felicitated him for becoming the Mir as a token and traditional sign of allegiance and loyalty.

On witnessing this event, taking place in front of his own eyes, Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah became extremely perturbed and felt uneasy, as he was expecting and was confident of being selected as the Mir himself. In a state of utter disappointment he turned his face towards Trangfah Mamuro and opened his mouth to make a complaint and protest to him. He addressed him and told Mamuro in a complaining tone that oh! My uncle Mamuro! you are giving me a very strange and deceitful treatment!! You have on this day agreed to the verdict of Wazir Asadullah Beg and selected Ghazan Khan as the Mir of Hunza?? Trangfah Mamuro on the same very moment answered him instantly and told him that oh! Mir's son! have you not learnt the phrase and the saying that fast and Intelligent men overcome and take control of women through deceit and cunning methods. In the same way the brave and courageous men obtain/extract wealth and fortunes from the Mirs and sons of Mir with the same deceit and cunning! Well the Mirship was deserving of Ghazan Khan which he has got it now!! Our discussions and words of protest are now fruitless and no more useful. If we make a move to avert it, we will fall into the firm grip and clamp of the strong men and will become captives and may be tormented!!

Hence, Ghazan Khan, in this manner, was installed on the throne of the Mirship of Hunza on that day which was in the year of 1280 A.H. corresponding to the year 1863 AD. He now had a desire to have a wife or a Rani belonging to royal family having a royal blood and origin. This was later duly arranged by proposing to a princess/lady from the family/clan of "Begg" of Sariqool.

131 . Marriage of Mir Ghazan Khan To a Princess of Sariqool (1864-65 AD)

As narrated earlier, Mir Ghazan Khan did not have a blue blooded royal Wife or Rani having a royal pedigree at the time of his installation as Mir of Hunza. His first wife, daughter of Mir of Nagar, who was the mother of his first son Safdar Khan had been murdered during the rule of Mir Ghazanfar Khan. However he had two ladies as wives belonging to the ordinary families of commoners of Hunza. One was Mst. Mow Begum daughter of Mir Haya (Meerayo) of Ganish who was the mother of his son Gushpur Muhammad Nafees Khan, whereas the second woman later taken as wife was Mst. Bibi Qurbani daughter of Mr. Loaq of Gulmit who was the mother of Muhammad Nazeem Khan. These ladies were initially detailed with Ghazan Khan as his servants during his punishment period. It was in view of this reason that he wanted to have a blue blooded 'Rani' of royal pedigree in his seraglio, which he considered essential and traditionally mandatory. Hence one Princess by the name of Mst. Bibi Fahmeedah daughter of Bubosh Beg of the capital town of "Tung" of Sariqool was brought into the marriage of Ghazan Khan. This Rani was therefore also well known as "Sariqool Rani" amongst the Hunzukutz. Mir Ghazan Khan had a son by the name of Saleem Khan alias Bappo, from the womb of this Rani, and also had a daughter named Ashrafi from the same Rani.

Mir Ghazan Khan's eldest daughter, Mst Bibi Mutreba, alias Zeeyo, who was the namesake of his own mother was married to Mr. Anwar Beg who was one of the members of the

family/clan of "Beks" of Sariqool and was also a close ally of Bubosh Beg. Two sons of this lady are still to be found in Sariqool and whose names are Mr. Yaqub Beg and Kamil Khan.

132. Plight of Widowed Wives and Ranies of Mir Ghazanfar Khan during the Rule of Mir Ghazan Khan

Mir Ghazan Khan, during his tenure as Mir of Hunza and immediately after the death of his father disposed off the widows of Mir Ghazanfar Khan by arranging their remarriages with many of his notables. Mst. Sudd Burg was given in re-marriage to Trangfah Mirza Hassan son of Farhat Beg of village Hyderabad. This lady gave birth to a son Mr. Malool for Mr. Mirza Hassan.

Another widow of Mir Ghazanfar Khan, Mst. Roazah daughter of Mr. Show was married to Farash Sungi Khan son of Mr. Ameen. This lady gave birth to four sons of Farash Sung, Khan. They are Messr. Kulbe Ali, Muhammad Raffi, Nau Bahar and Sanaa Khwan (Khan).

Mst. Mehar Mah daughter of Muhammad Sakhi was given to Wazir Asadullah Beg as his wife, This lady could not give birth to any offsprings for Wazir Asadullah Beg However this lady performed the duties of looking after the herds of sheep and goat to the meadows and pasture lands of "Sheesh Pur" and produced many by-products to milk i.e. butter and Qurut etc for Wazir Asadullah Beg.

Mst. Bibi Hazma was sent back to Nagar along with her son Alif Khan, as she was the ex-wife of Mir Zafar Khan of Nagar prior to the plunder and ransacking of Nagar by Wazir Asadullah Beg. Mst. Suleimani daughter of Wazir Halo of Nagar was also sent back to Nagar along with Bibi Hazma. This lady was later married to someone at Gilgit.

133. Plight of Step Brothers of Mir Ghazan Khan (1864-66).

Not even a year had passed since the taking over as Mir of Hunza by Mir Ghazan Khan. When Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah also contracted the disease of small-pox and died of this fatal ailment. He was buried in Karimabad next to the grave of his father Shah Ghazanfar Khan. He did not have a son or a male issue. Though he had two wives. One of the wives was Mst. Mow Begum daughter of Mr. Aliko Jaturya He had a daughter by the name of Mst. Saadat Bakht from this wife. This daughter was married to Mr. Iqtidar Sher son of Zulflqar Sher son of Mehtar Suleiman Shah at the village of Baseen (Gilgit). The second wife of Bakhtawar Shah was Mst. Sultan Nasab who was the daughter of Mir Zafar Khan of Nagar. After the death of Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah, this lady was married to Safdar Khan by Mir Ghazan Khan. However she was divorced as Safdar Khan was still of tender and young age Mst. Mow Begum, the first wife of Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah, was married to Faizullah Beg son to Wazir Asadullah Beg when she had fallen widow.

Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah possessed his share of agricultural lands and Jageer at the village of Hyderabad, Hunza. He was a literate person and a man of many skills. Was a very proficient, reputed and expert Polo player and horseman. His horse named as "Qashqah" was so

good and well reputed that the elders/white bearded men still praise and talk of him and his this famous horse He was a good flutiest also. Mr. Ali Parast son of Abdullah Khan had been brought up at his house. After the death of Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah, this Mr. Ali Parast son of Abdullah Khan was shifted and sent to the house of Mr. Batti resident of Fasso on the special orders of Mir Ghazan Khan. Mir Ghazan Khan considered and declared Ali Parast as the legal heir of Mr. Batti and declared him as the next of kin and successor to Batti's lands and property. This was done as a personal vendetta and out of vengeance, as Abdullah Khan had forcibly snatched away the wife of Mr. Batti and had married her to himself. Mir Ghazan Khan, as mentioned earlier, had compelled and declared Ali Parast as the heir of Mr. Batti out of his old rivalry and animosity with Abdullah Khan, father of Ali Parast.

Mir Ghazan Khan granted the entire lands and properties of Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah, along with its rights and privileges to Wazir Asadullah Beg, after the demise of Bakhtawar Shah at village Hyderabad. He also gave in writing the title deed of ownership of these lands and properties to Wazir Asadullah Beg. A photo copy to this original title deed is posted and Included in this book on the opposite page

Photocopy of title deed to be attached

This original title deed having the original marks of official stamps (rings) of Mir Shah Ghazanfar Khan, Mir Ghazan Khan and Mir Safdar Khan is still held in safe custody with the author/writer of this book. The lands and properties so granted and allotted are in possession of Farsj Muhammad Raza Beg and Mr. Babar Khan the sons of Wazir Asadullah Beg. (These lands are now further distributed amongst the descendants of these two men, who have grown into a whole community in village Hyderabad). Following is the English translation of this "title deed" / document:

"Bismillah Hir Rehman Nir Raheem"

"In the name of Allah the most Gracious, the most Merciful"

On this occasion, I, Mir Ghazan Khan son of Mir Ghazanfar Khan, hereby grant the chunk/piece of agricultural/and unit at village of Hyderabad to his Excellency the great Wazir Asadullah Beg of Hunza as a gift and reward. I Solemnly declare that I am doing this on my free will and wish and without any compulsion or any sort of pressure and on my own accord. And, therefore, and henceforth, from this day onward- over the next entire coming generations – that is my offsprings and Safdar Ali Khan will no more have any concern and claim on these lands and will not have anything to do with the offsprings and generations of the Wazir in connection with these lands. He therefore will not make any claim on these lands. My God almighty and his prophet both are the witnesses in this matter, so that there occurs no interference In this matter during the times to come. It is this reason that these sentences are given in writing as the "title of deed~ for the ownership of these lands.

Written on 24th of Zil-Hajj 1284 AH. This person Rasool Shah resident of Skardu Fort (Mir Munshi) in the court Is having this Information, Is a witness and who wrote this document”.

134. Conspiracy Hatched by Naunihal Shah (1864 AD)

After the death of Gushpur Bakhtawar Shah, Gushpur Naunihal Shah secretly got down with his companions and accomplices to hatch and plan a plot/conspiracy. As per this plan of conspiracy this group assembled to work out the details for murdering of Mir Ghazan Khan. When the details had been finalized and the oaths and the pledges were made and completed by all in this sitting, Mr. Taifoor the famous son of Mr. Bagharthum of Altit, who was part of the same group and Sitting in the same meeting rose and went out by making an excuse that he was going out to urinate, On getting out from the house, where the meeting was held, he immediately and in full speed, ran towards the Mirs Fort (Baltit Fort). After a while, his friends became suspicious of his intentions when he was late In returning back to the same house, They, therefore, came out of the house and started running after him. To their horror they found out and then saw him that he was rushing in the direction and on the path leading to the Mir's fort. On realizing the gravity of the Situation they immediately took out their swords and started running after and in pursuit of Mr. Taifoor. However Taifoor was a very athletic man and he had already gained a good amount of lead, hence he safely made it to the main entrance of the Baltit Fort during that dark and thick of the night. As the main door/gate was closed firmly and locked as per the standing operational procedure and the customs and traditions of Hunza, he started climbing the walls to the fort using the protruding ends of the wooden beams/logs forming part of the outer walls of the fort, as a ladder or holds/supports and succeeded in climbing onto the roof top of the fort safe and sound and out of reach of his sword waving pursuers He, in this manner reached the person of Mir Ghazan Khan and informed him about the conspiracy hatched against him by Naunihal Shah and his friends and companions. When the next morning dawned, Mir Ghazan Khan issued orders for the arrest of Naunihal Shah and his companions, and they were all accordingly duly arrested. After a few days Naunihal Shah was taken to the graveyard of his ancestors at Altit and his head was hacked from his body with a sharp sword. His body was then buried in the graveyard of his own predecessors.

Meanwhile Mir Ghazan Khan, considering those to be a source of danger, ordered his men to immediately cut the protruding ends of the logs of the walls of the fort, which were used by Mr. Taifoor to climb the fort wall. However Wazir Asadullah Beg intervened and opposed the idea of cutting of these protruding ends of logs and did not allow them to do so. He instead put forth an alternative proposal to solve this problem. He added to the existing wall yet another outer gate/door and got constructed an outer wall parallel to the original one at a space and interval equal to the length of out cropping and protruding ends of the logs. In this way some additional covered space was created between the old/inner wall and the new outer wall. This newly created covered space was utilized to house the sentries and guards of the fort on ground level. The upper levels were converted into a gully or a sort of tunnel/veranda where stocks of stones were stored to rain them down on any raiding/attacking enemy trying to approach the main door of the fort or making an effort to scale the walls of the fort.

135. Murder of Gushpur Tawakkal Shah (1865-66 AD)

Mir Ghazan Khan when free and at leisure from the mischievous and seditious person of Gushpur Naunihal Shah, became fearful and uneasy from the doubtful person of Gushpur Tawakkal Shah and his being. He, therefore, placed him under arrest and put him to shackles. Chains and shackles were tied to his feet and legs. HIS foster father Faraj Sangi Khan son of Ameen was removed from the appointment of (Faraji) Farajship and granted this important appointment to Wazir Zada Dado Dara Beg. In fact additional powers were authorized and added to this appointment and Dado was made the financial adviser and minister responsible for the collection and handling of the entire revenues of whole of Hunza State, After a few days or months Mir Ghazan Khan awarded life imprisonment to Tawakkal Shah and banished him to the remotest village of Shimshal Tawakkal Shah remained under house arrest at Shimshal for two years. However even then Mir Ghazanfar Khan could not tolerate the very existence at Tawakkal Shah and was not content even with this confinement. Finally he sent a person by the name of Dulai from Gulmit to Shimshal and through him sent an order to the inhabitants of Shimshal to kill him by hanging him with the help to a rope around his neck. The inhabitants of Shimshal complied and they killed Tawakkal Shah as ordered. His dead body was then thrown into an old grave without providing him a proper burial, ritual and a shroud.

It is said that on receiving the orders for his death and before being hanged to death. Tawakkal Shah took a last bath, cleaned himself and then spread his both hands in the highest court of his creator and the proprietor of the universe and prayed to him and addressed him saying that "Oh! God I am helpless and innocent, you are the one powerful to avenge Ghazan Khan for his this cruelty and utmost injustice. I have committed no sin and had never demanded from him any thing more than the simple food for myself. He is murdering me for no fault of mine and for no crime as I am totally innocent."

Mir Ghazan Khan, after the killing of Tawakkal Shah, gave in foster ship one of his own daughters, Mst Mahe Chehra (Moi) to Sungi Khan, the foster father of Tawakkal Shah. Sungi Khan was also awarded the appointment of "Yanagi" (Supervisor) to lands at Beeshkar.

136. Banishment and Sending into Exile of Gushpur Rehan Shah (1868-69 AD)

Mir Ghazan Khan, when succeeded in getting rid of the seditious existence of three of his half brothers, he turned his attention towards repulsion of the person of his fourth half brother Rehan Shah as well. Rehan Shah was performing the duties of the representative of Mir of Hunza at Chaprot, since the era of rule of his father Mir Shah Ghazanfar Khan. He was still doing as the representative of Mir of Hunza during the reign of Mir Ghazan Khan as well Wazir Asadullah Beg was also present in Chaprot during those days in order to strengthen and improve the defenses and condition of the forts of Chaprot and that valley. This had become imperative in view of the situation wherein Chaprot had become the hub and target of activities of the enemies of Hunza during those days. At times the forces of Nagar State occupied these valleys, and alternately the Mehtars of Gilgit and Yasin made efforts to capture Chaprot valley. Secondly after the death of Mehtar Ghazi Gauhar Aman (1860 AD), Maharaja of Kashmir had conquered and occupied Gilgit during those years. The officials of Maharaja at Gilgit had an eye on Chaprot and were awaiting for an opportunity and pretext to invade and conquer Chaprot. It was because of

such circumstances and reasons that Wazir Asadullah Beg was busy and staying at Chaprot for a few months with Gushpur Rehan Shah, in order to make necessary preparations and arrangements to defend and protect Chaprot, with the help of its inhabitants. He made efforts to enhance the goodwill and respect of inhabitants towards Rehan Shah. Under such prevailing conditions, Mr. Yarpah Murata son of Yarpah Daulato, who was a rival and opponent of Wazir Asadullah Beg and an aspirant of the appointment of the Wazir of Chaprot, started talking, complaining and backbiting against Wazir Asadullah Beg in front of Mir Ghazan Khan. He made an aspersion and complaint against Wazir Asadullah Beg in which he alleged that Asadullah Beg had aligned and united himself with Rehan Shah as the maternal uncles of Rehan Shah were now living at Nomal. He suggested to Mir Ghazan Khan that in view of this close relationship and proximity of Nomal to Chaprot, "Asadullah Beg was likely to join hands with the officials of Maharaja at Gilgit and it was feared and most probable that he may one day deprive you of the Mirship of Hunza and may possibly install Rehan Shah in your place. He then suggested and proposed to Mir Ghazan Khan that it would be prudent that Wazir Asadullah Beg be recalled back to Hunza from Chaprot and Rehan Shah may either be eliminated, or sent into exile. Yarfah Murata in order to press home his game plan, laid more stress and warned Mir Ghazan Khan that his attraction may result into dire consequences and a greater catastrophe for him. Mir Ghazan Khan got convinced, bought the suggestions made by Yarfah Murata and acted on his advice. He, therefore, recalled Wazir Asadullah Beg from Chaprot and dispatched Rehan Shah towards the court of Maharaja of Kashmir. He also wrote a letter to the Maharaja of Kashmir saying that "Rehan Shah was his own brother but he had made a plan of conspiracy for a rebellion revolt against him (Ghazan Khan), Hence he is now being sent towards you so that he is placed under house arrest by your Excellency. Kindly do not send him back to me and instead keep him under your watchful eyes and supervision /protection."

Rehan Shah along with his own foster father Mr. Faulad (Fulato) left Chaprot and reached Kashmir. On his arrival, the Maharaja of Kashmir, as per the request and wishes of Mir Ghazan Khan, accorded him asylum and refuge and granted him a (Jageer) piece of land at the location of Butt Malu, in vicinity of Sri Nagar and got him settled there. Maharaja also fixed an annual grant and stipend for livelihood of Rehan Shah. The children and offsprings of Rehan Shah i.e. his son Zulfiqar Ali and his son Ghazanfar Ali are now found in Kashmir (as of 1962 AD).

137. Construction of a New Polo Ground at Village Baltit (1863-64 AD)

As per oral tradition it is narrated that the Polo players of ancient Hunza had been using the Polo ground to Altit as this Polo ground was constructed some way back in ancient times. There existed no Polo ground at Baltit Khun. Mir Ghazanfar Khan, therefore, got constructed a small Polo ground at Baltit which was located just outside the parapet and security wall of the (clustered housing) Baltit Khun. However this Polo ground was not sufficiently wide and was too narrow. In view of this, Mir Ghazan Khan-I Immediately after becoming the Mir of Hunza (1863-64), made a desire to expand, enlarge and Widen the existing Polo ground of Baltit. Hence accordingly the Polo ground was widened and expanded within a short period of time, but a lot many fruit gardens belonging to the people of "Burong tribe" were utilized to bring the Polo ground to its present size. A small mosque was also constructed on the southern edge of this ground for "conveying reward of virtue" in favour of the soul to Mir Salim Khan. The date or

year of construction of this mosque and the Polo ground IS engraved on the door of this mosque. This is also the year in which Mir Ghazan Khan had ascended the throne of Mirship of Hunza. Following is the translation to English of the wordings engraved on the wooden door of this mosque:-

" In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful"

(الصلوة والسلام على خير المرسلين محمد وآله واصحابه اجمعين)

“May many blessing and peace be upon most virtuous messengers of the Almighty, our Prophet Muhammad, his descendants and all his companions. After that it is being mentioned that this mosque has been constructed and dedicated for the prayers for well being of the souls of a/l pious men and the women and specially for the eternal peace and forgiveness of the soul of Mir Shah Saleem Khan father of Shah Ghazanfar Khan, the deceased father of Mir Ghazan Khan his heir who has got this mosque constructed in the year 1280 A.H, during the year of Horse and when the festivals of Nauroze and Eid-e-Ghadeer both have fallen on the same day i.e. on this Sunday. "

It has been narrated that on completion of construction of this Polo Ground (along with the mosque) it was inaugurated on the day of Nauroze (21 March) by racing a camel according to the traditions and customs of Hunza. This camel was ridden by Faraj Dado Dara Beg son or Wazir Asadullah Beg on the orders of Mir Ghazan Khan (as It has been a custom that a senior or an important personality of Thara Beg Family of Diramiting Tribe inaugurates and Initiates every new protect and activity and festival and they are considered to be noble and of good omen and thus are called “Sa'at Gooyo” in Burushaski language even in present day Hunza.) After this Inaugural race of this single camel, the same "camel” was then slaughtered and its meat was donated and given to the people/subjects as alms. After this a grand Polo Match was organized and played in this newly constructed Polo Ground.