

Emigres in Mughal Nobility During Shahjahan's Reign and their Backgrounds

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Abstract: *During Shahjahan's reign, there was a significant influx of immigrants from both Iran and Central Asia, and they played a substantial role in the Mughal administration.¹ The period of Shahjahan was marked by the zenith of the Mughal Empire's prosperity and affluence. The allure of India's wealth attracted numerous foreign immigrants. B.P. Saksena, in his book "History of Shahjahan of Delhi," noted that India's reputation for wealth drew foreign visitors who were captivated by the grandeur of the emperor and his court..*

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I. INTRODUCTION

During Shahjahan's reign, there was a significant influx of immigrants from both Iran and Central Asia, and they played a substantial role in the Mughal administration.¹ The period of Shahjahan was marked by the zenith of the Mughal Empire's prosperity and affluence. The allure of India's wealth attracted numerous foreign immigrants. B.P. Saksena, in his book "History of Shahjahan of Delhi," noted that India's reputation for wealth drew foreign visitors who were captivated by the grandeur of the emperor and his court. The opulence of the court exceeded their expectations, earning the emperor and his court unstinted admiration.² The Mughal invasion of Central Asia in 1646 AD triggered several important defections into Mughal court.³

In this paper, a comprehensive analysis has been undertaken to examine the backgrounds of the immigrant nobles who arrived during Shahjahan's reign. These immigrants, originating from various countries and representing diverse societal segments, have been thoroughly investigated in terms of their family backgrounds, professions prior to their migration to India, social status in their countries of origin, and the compelling circumstances that prompted their journey. A nuanced exploration of the reasons behind their emigration reveals a spectrum of motivations, including seeking refuge from political or religious persecution, aspiring to serve in the Mughal court, and pursuing improved prospects in India. By scrutinising each individual immigrant during Shahjahan's era, this discussion provides an insightful portrayal of these immigrants and the multifaceted factors that shaped their presence within the Mughal Empire, enriching our understanding of this historical period.

In 1632 AD, during the fifth year of Shahjahan's reign, Haji Waqqas arrived at the Mughal court. Hailing from Balkh, he served as the ambassador of Nazar Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh.⁴ In this diplomatic capacity, Haji Waqqas brought with him letters and presents from Nazar Muhammad Khan to Shahjahan. His arrival at the court was marked by a warm reception and honours.⁵ In 1633 AD, he was bestowed with a dress of honour, a horse, and an elephant as a token of esteem. To sum it up, Haji Waqqas received significant recognition and respect as the ambassador of Nazar Muhammad Khan. Later, he returned to Balkh, carrying a letter from Emperor Shahjahan.⁶ However, his experience in India left such a lasting impression that he decided to return in the ninth year, rejoining the Mughal court and becoming part of the emperor's services.⁷

Abdur Rahim Beg Uzbek came from Balkh and he was close associate of Nazar Muahmmad Khan, the ruler of Balkh. His brother Abdur Rahman Beg was guardian of Abdul Aziz Khan, the eldest son of Nazar Muahammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh.⁸ Although reason for his emigration is not clear, he was received with honours in the imperial court. In



1638 AD he came to the court and the emperor gave him robe of honour, a decorated dagger, a sword and rank of 1,000 with 600 horses.⁹ Thus when Abdur Rahim Beg came to the court, he was received with great honours.

Tarbiyat Khan Barlas came to India during the reign of Shahjahan and his name was Shafi Ullah. He was an Uzbek and he was a foreigner by birth.¹⁰ After coming to India he entered the royal service during Shahjahan. He became famous in short time and was appointed to the high office like *Mir Tuzuk* or master of ceremonies.¹¹

Khusrau Sultan, son of Nazar Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh came to court and joined the emperor's service because of political turmoil in the Balkh. Due to the revolt of Uzbeks in the Balkh, family of Nazar Muhammad was passing through difficult times there. When Prince Murad went to Balkh and Badakhshan and suppressed the revolt of unruly tribes, Khusrau Sultan made peace with Prince Murad and joined imperial army.¹² Later he came to the court and received *mansab* of 6,000 with 2,000 horses.

Abdur Rahman, son of Nazar Muhammad Khan, ruler of Balkh and Badakhshan joined imperial force after the conquest of Balkh and Badakhshan by Prince Murad in 1646 AD. When Prince Murad reached Balkh, Nazar Muhammad escaped from the fort of Balkh with his two sons Subhan Quli and Qutlaq Muhammad. Two other sons Bahram Sultan and Abdur Rahman remained there and after the subjugation of Balkh, Bahram Sultan and Abdur Rahman with their families were handed over to Lahrasp.¹³ Abdur Rahman came to the court in 1647 and received with great honour and received many presents from the emperor.¹⁴

Abdullah Beg was son of Mansur Haji of Balkh. Mansur Haji was an able and experienced man and officer of Nadhr Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh and Badakhshan. Nadhr Muhammad sent Mansur Haji as an ambassador to the court of Shahjahan in the twelfth year of Emperor Shahjahan's reign. Masur Haji came with his two sons Abdullah Beg and Muhsin. At that time, they returned to their native country with many gifts and presents.¹⁵ However, when Prince Murad led expedition to Balkh and Badakhshan and the area came under the imperial forces, Abdullah Beg and Muhsin Beg joined the imperial service and paid respect to the court. At that time, Mansur Haji also joined the imperial forces.¹⁶ Bahram Sultan was son of Nazar Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh and Badakhshan. When Prince Muhammad Murad came to Balkh in 1646 AD with the imperial army, Bahram Sultan, Subhan Sultan and some other nobles joined the imperial army and entered the victorious camp.¹⁷ As Balkh came under imperial forces, Bahram Sultan had no option but to join the imperial force. After that Bahram Sultan came to Kabul and formally joined Mughal service. He received rank of 5,000 and 1,000 horses. Bahram Sultan was so satisfied in India that when Nadhr Muhammad again conquered the Balkh, he did not go there. Although Nazar Muhammad summoned him, he refused to go and remained in India.¹⁸

After the conquest of Balkh and Badakhshan in 1646 AD, many nobles who were in service under Nazar Muhammad Khan joined Mughal service. Qabad Khan was one of them. He was master of horses of Nazar Muhammad Khan. When Mughal forces under Prince Murad came to Balkh, Qabad Khan was governor of fort of Ghori. Qulij Khan and Khalilullah Beg were sent to capture Ghori and Kahmard and on June 16, 1646. Qulij Khan captured Ghori without any struggle.¹⁹ After the subjugation of Ghori, Qabad Khan with his family came to the court and paid respect to Emperor Shahjahan.²⁰

Tahir Shaikh came from Balkh during the reign of Shahjahan. In the twentieth year of Emperor Shahjahan's reign, Tahir Shaikh came to the court and paid respect. He was awarded robe of honour and many valuable gifts.²¹

Taiyib Khwaja Jubari joined the service of Emperor Shahjahan after the conquest of Balkh in the twentieth year of Emperor Shahjahan's reign. Taiyib Khwaja belonged to noble family of Balkh. He was son of Hasan Khwaja, relative of Nadhr Muhammad Khan, the ruler of Balkh.²² In 1646

AD, plague broke out in Balkh and Hasan Khan, father of Taiyub Khwaja died of plague. After the death of his father, Taiyib Khwaja left Balkh and started his march for India. In 1647 AD, when he came to India, he was received with great honour.²³

Mubariz Khan Mir Kull was one of the Saiyids of Badakhshan. In the twenty-third year of Shah Jahan's reign 'he left his native land, and came to the royal Court in India with some of his brothers and other relations. And having been favoured by fortune he received the rank of 500 foot with 200 horses, and a present of Rs 3,000.²⁴



Muhammad Badi Sultan was son of Khusrau Sultan came from Balkh.²⁵ He came to India with his father in the nineteenth year of Shahjahan's reign. In the twentieth year, he paid his respects to the emperor and received a robe of honour, and a horse with a gilded saddle.²⁶ Badi Sultan came when Balkh and Badakhshan came under imperial force. He was from ruling family of Balkh and came with his father. The cause of his migration to India was political turmoil in his native country.²⁷

Allah Quli Khan Uzbek was the son of the famous Alang Tosh, who was one of the cossacks and eminent horsemen of Turan. Allah Quli and his family had an interesting background. Alang Tosh belonged to the Alman tribe, and his name was Jati. In a battle, he attacked with his bare breast, and from that time he was known as Alang Tosh, for alang means in Turki bare or naked, and tosh means breast. He was servant of Nazar Muhammad, the ruler of Balkh, and held Kahmard and the Hazarajat in fief. As he received very little pay as a servant, he involved himself in plunder and raided as far as Qandahar and Ghaznin and so got his livelihood. However, at the time when Nazar Muhammad Khan's power was declining, Alang Tosh was removed from his post without any reason. Nazar Muhammad Khan appointed Imam Quli Khan in place of Alang Tosh. When Alang Tosh was removed from his post, Allah Quli in thirteenth year came to the presence of Shahjahan and joined service under him.²⁸

Apart from noble and military background, learned people also came to India from Central Asia during the reign of Shahjahan. Khwaja Abid belonged to a learned family of Samarqand. He was the son of Alam Shaikh who was one of the greatest personalities of Samarqand. Khwaja Abid completed his education in Samarqand and after completing his formal education he went to Bokhara. There he was appointed as Qazi and later as *Shaikh-ul-Islam*. In 1655 AD he came to Kabul and from there he came to India. Emperor Shahjahan gave him robe of honour and presents.²⁹

Muhammad Husain Dasht Bayazi, also known as Dianat Khan, migrated to India from Iran in 1628 AD. His title was Dasht Bayazi, which was one of the nine tracts of the country of Khurasan.³⁰ Because of good fortune, he entered the service of Shahjahan in Junair and was admitted to intimacy and influence. On the day of the accession, he received the rank of 2,000 with 800 horses, and a present of Rs 8,000.³¹

Muqarrab Khan first came to Deccan from Iran. He was a Circassian. His tribe lives on the slopes of the Elburz mountains, for the most part in tents. At first, he was in the service of Nizam-ul-Mulk Deccani, and gained a name for leadership.³² He was granted the title of Muqarrab Khan. In the third year of the reign of Emperor Shahjahan, when the latter was in the Deccan, Muqarrab Khan who was the chief swordsman of Nizam-ul-Mulk often confronted the imperial forces, and surrounded them. When Nizamul-Mulk imprisoned Fateh Khan, son of Malik Ambar, who was his *wakil* and Commander-in-chief, he appointed Muqarrab Khan as his Commander-in-chief and Hamid Khan Habshi as his *wakil*. However, after a time he released Fath Khan, and reinstated him as his Minister and Commander-in-chief. As a result of this unstable behaviour, Muqarrab Khan left his service, and tried to enter royal service.³³

In the fourth year, he applied to Azam Khan. When this news was reported to the emperor, the proposal was approved, and a conciliatory *farman* was issued. Manaji Dauria, who was his agent, came to Azam Khan, and for his own satisfaction carefully studied the situation.³⁴ Afterwards, Muqarrab Khan with all his companions set off for the royal camp. To welcome him Azam Khan went as far as the limits of the camp and brought him to his quarters. On royal account he bestowed upon him a robe of honour, a jewelled dagger, four horses, a male and a female elephant, and a lakh of rupees in cash. Two hundred robes of honour, 100 shawls, and seventy horses were given to his companions. He recommended that Muqarrab Khan should be appointed to the rank of 5,000 foot with 5,000 horses, and suitable ranks were proposed for his companions, who were more than 100 in number. The emperor approved the rank proposed for him, and sent a robe of honour, a dagger, a jewelled sword, a flag, a drum, a horse with a golden saddle, and an elephant for him.³⁵ After that he went to the court and paid homage and was received with honour.³⁶

Qizilbash Khan who migrated to India during Shahjahan belonged to a noble family of Iran. He was the son of Tahmasp Beg and grandfather of Qazilbash Khan, Qadir Aqa for a time was the *wakil* of Shah Tahmasp Safavi, ruler of Iran. He enjoyed the nearness and position in the court of Shah. Later, Qizilbash Khan received favours from the Shah. However, he left Iran and set out for India.³⁷ He came to India by sea and reached Bijapur. Ibrahim Adil Khan gave him the title of Itimad Khan and appointed him his general. He entered the service under Emperor Shahjahan in the fifth



year of the emperor's reign and received the rank of 2,000 with 1,000 horses. He received the title of Qazaibash Khan and a present of Rs 20000 cash.³⁸

Mulla Alaul Mulk was a learned person from Iran. He was one of the best mathematicians and astronomers of that time. He was from Tun and was among the foremost thinkers of his age in both physical science and mathematics, particularly in the field of astronomy. In the seventh year of Shahjahan's reign, he came from Persia to India.³⁹ Initially, after coming to India, he attached himself to Nawab Asaf Jah. He spent his days in his company, and when Asaf Jah died, he entered the royal service in the fifteenth year and received the rank of 500 with 50 horses.⁴⁰

The stream of immigration to the Mughal nobility continued under Shahjahan. Unlike the reigns of Akbar and Jahangir, it would seem that immigrants from Iran during Shahjahan's time were individuals and not whole families or establishments. The only exception was Ali Mardan Khan.

Ali Mardan Khan was a Kurd of the Zig tribe and belonged to a well reputed aristocratic family. His father, Ganj Ali Khan Zig, was an old servant of Shah Abbas Mazi. In the time of Shah Abbas's childhood and when he was living at Herat, Ganj Ali was a head servant. During the Shah Abbas reign, he was entrusted with important offices like Qiladar of Salmah in Khawaf, Governor of Kirman and Sistan. In 1621 AD, he was appointed as the Governor of Qandahar, the most important province of the time and where apparently trusted and experienced generals were appointed. Ganj Ali Khan held that post until he died in 1624 AD.⁴¹

After the death of Ganj Ali Khan, the Shah gave his son, Ali Mardan Khan, the title of Khan and appointed him as the Governor of Qandahar and called him *Baba-i-Sani* (the second father). After the Shah's death, and when the sovereignty came to Shah Safi, he, on unfounded suspicions, degraded many of the Shah Abbasi's officers. Fearing for his safety, Ali Mardan decided to align with Shahjahan. He reached out to Said Khan, the Governor of Kabul, to express his intention.⁴² In the twelfth year, he came to Lahore and paid respect to the emperor.⁴³

Murshid Quli Khan came to the court of Shahjahan. He was a Turk by birth and a soldier by profession.⁴⁴ He was known for his remarkable skills and intellect. Initially, he served under Ali Mardan Khan Zeg, who was the Governor of Qandahar. When Ali Mardan Khan surrendered the formidable fort to the imperial authorities, some of his most capable servants, including Murshid Quli Khan, chose to serve Shahjahan.⁴⁵ He soon, through his good fortune, came to the notice of the emperor, and received royal favours.⁴⁶

Many physicians immigrated to India during the reign of Akbar and Jahangir. Many famous physicians came from Iran to India during that time. Hakim Daud, son of Hakim Inayat Ullah, was one of the famous physicians who came from Iran during Shahjahan's reign. He was the foremost pupil of Mirza Muhammad, the father of Hakim Masih-uz-Zaman. After his father's death he, on account of his great skill and experience as a physician, became an intimate companion of Shah Abbas I, and was the head of the Shah's physicians. After the death of that great sovereign, he was, through the machinations of his enemies, ill-treated by Shah Safi. He also did not receive proper consideration from Shah Abbas II who was still young, and it became impossible for him to stay in Iran.⁴⁷ After that he expressed his intention of going on a pilgrimage, but in reality he proceeded to the court of Emperor Shahjahan from Iraq via Basra, and disembarked at the port of Lahri (Lari, in Sindh). In the seventeenth year 1053 A.H. (1643 AD), he presented himself at the court, and was appointed to the rank of 1,000, and received Rs 20,000 as a present.⁴⁸

Mulla Shafia came to India during the reign of Shahjahan from Yezd in 1650 AD. Mulla Shafia was a scholar and scientist. He spent long time in pursuing knowledge in Iran. After acquiring substantial expertise in both in rational and traditional sciences, he became a businessman in Iran. He managed to accumulate money from merchants in Iran and came to India for business purposes. He became a trader in India and for this purpose he travelled to many parts of India. When he was travelling in India for his business, he spent some time with the imperial camp and went to Agra and from there to Lahore. As he was an able person, Emperor Shahjahan noticed him and summoned him to the court. He came to the court in November 23, 1650 and joined service under Emperor Shahjahan.⁴⁹

Mir Muhammad Said Mir Jumla is one of the most interesting figures of seventeenth century in India. Mir Muhammad Said was from Ardistan near Isfahan.⁵⁰ His father was a small oil merchant and despite being the son of a small merchant he was able to get knowledge in letters that helped him to get a job as a clerk under a diamond merchant who



used to trade with Golconda. After some time, Mir Jumla left his native country to make his life easy and help his family in Iran.⁵¹ He came with some horse traders of Iran. Initially, Mir Muhammad Said struggled a lot in India. Later he became a successful diamond merchant and businessman.⁵²

After establishing himself as a successful businessman, Mir Muhammad Said entered the service under the Qutubshahi dynasty. He received title Mir Jumla which means principal minister or general. He successfully occupied Vijayanagar Empire and it became his private kingdom. With his success, many in Qutubshahi court became jealous of him and Mir Jumla turned to the Mughals for protection.⁵³

In 1656 AD, Mir Jumla threw himself under the protection of Shahjahan who, after the successful invasion of Golconda by Aurangzeb, granted him the rank of 5,000/5,000, while his son, Amin, obtained rank of 2,000/2,000.⁵⁴

Mukhlis Hussain born in Tabriz, Northwest Iran, migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He came to India with his father. His reason of immigration was to seek employment under Shahjahan and he came with his father Mulla Kalb Ali Tabrizi. In India, he joined the service under Prince Aurangzeb who dispatched Mukhlis Khan in the company of his brother Banda Reza to Bijapur as *wazir*.⁵⁵ of the court in 1636 AD.

Banda Reza, brother of Mukhlis, came to India with his father, Mulla Kalb Ali Tabrizi, for employment during the reign of Shahjahan. Banda Reza was *mansabdar* of Emperor Shahjahan. In 1636 AD, he was dispatched by Aurangzeb to Abdullah Qutub Shah as *wazir* of darbar.⁵⁶

Mulla Kalb Ali Tabrizi migrated to India from Iran during the reign of Shahjahan. He came with his two sons Mukhlis Hussain and Banda Reza. He came to India for employment and became one of the *mansabdars* of Shahjahan.⁵⁷

Rahmat Khan, whose name was Ziyauddin, came to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He was nephew of Hakim Rukhna, a famous physician of Iran. Hakim Rukhna left Iran during

Akbar's period and settled in India. Rahmat Khan and his father Hakim Qutba remained in Iran. Rahmat Khan married daughter of Talib, a relative of Hakim Rukhna. He was invited by his relatives who were in India to come to India. Therefore, Rahmat Khan migrated to India, and he was favoured by Emperor Shahjahan. In 1640 A.D, he was appointed as the superintendent of *Karkirag khana* and also granted title of Rahmat Khan.⁵⁸

Shah Safi sent ambassador to the court of Emperor Shahjahan in 1630 AD. Muhammad Ali came to the court of Shahjahan as an ambassador of Shah Safi. Muhammad Taqi also came with Muhammad Ali. Muhammad Taqi held the office of cashier of goods in his native country, Iran.⁵⁹

Many Iranian immigrants had settled in India during the previous regime, but their relatives remained in Iran. Those that remained in Iran, later came to India with the invitation of their Indian relatives. In case of Inayat Ullah, he came to India as his relatives were already settled in India and were in the service of Emperor Shahjahan. Inayat Ullah was nephew of Afzal Khan Mulla,⁶⁰ Shukurullah, who was already settled here. Inayat Ullah was son of Abdul Haq and both father and son came to India during the reign of Shahjahan to seek employment. Inayat Ullah, in 1638 AD, was appointed as the reviser of petition and received title of Aqil Khan.⁶¹

During the seventeenth century, many traders came to India from Iran for trading purposes. Some traders remained in India and joined services in imperial court. Mir Muhammad Said was famous for that. The same thing happened to the case of Mirza Saduddin.⁶² He belonged to Mashhad and his father Khwaja Ghiyas was one of the leading traders in India. Mirza Saduddin came to India with his father during the reign of Shahjahan.⁶³ After coming to India, he came under Islam Khan who was a noble in Emperor Shahjahan's court. Islam Khan became the patron of Mirza Saduddin. He was also a poet and he impressed many people in India.⁶⁴

During the reign of Shahjahan, after the conquest of Balkh from Nazar Muhammad Khan, many officers of Nazar Muhammad Khan came to India and joined imperial services. Hasan Beg Rafi Mashhadi also came. Mirza Hasan Beg was originally an inhabitant of Qazwin but since he stayed at Mashhad for a long time, he was better known as Mashhadi. When Abdullah Khan Uzbek invaded Khurasan, he took away Mirza Rafi with him along with other prisoners. Rafi was very young at the time and Rafi's remarkable intelligence attracted the attention of Nazar Muhammad Khan, the Governor of Balkh. Rafi was *Kitab Dar* of Nazar Muhammad Khan and he was married to Nazar Muhammad Khan's wife's sister. When Shahjahan conquered Balkh and defeated Nazar Muhammad Khan in



1646 AD, Rafi came to India with the son of Nazar Muhammad Khan. The *munshi* of Nazar Muhammad Khan came to pay his respects to the imperial throne and received *Khilat*. He was awarded 3,000 rupees and subsequently honoured with *mansab* for 500 *zat*.⁶⁵

Mirza Mahmud Basil came to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He was from Mashhad and he came to India in search of employment. Professionally he was a poet in Iran. After coming to India he rose to high position under Emperor Shahjahan.⁶⁶

Many learned people migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan and Girami Shamlu was one of them. Hasan Beg Girami Shamlu was a poet, and he was from Shamlu tribe of Iran. Hasan Beg Girami migrated to India for employment. In India he was able to get service under Emperor Shahjahan. Hasan Beg was appointed as *Bakhsi* of Gujarat and later *Mir Bhar* of Bengal.⁶⁷

Muhammad Munem migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. Muhammad Munem was from Iran, and he came to India for better prospects. In India he joined imperial army in 1631 AD. Muhammad Munem was in service under Aqa Zaman, one of the Bengal *amirs*. Muhammad Munem was a poet of that time.⁶⁸

Mirza Jalai Tabatabai, one of the learned scholars of Isfahan migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He came to India in 1634 AD and taken into imperial services. Mirza Jalai Tabatabai was from Yazd and he came to India to seek employment at the court of Emperor Shahjahan. The emperor appointed him to write official history of Shahjahan and he wrote first five years of the reign of Emperor Shahjahan.⁶⁹

In Mughal court not only the emperor but many nobles also patronized poets and learned people. As they received patronage, many learned people migrated from their native country and came to India and enrolled themselves to imperial services. Mulla Muhammad Baqir Shirzai Mozahheb was one of the learned persons who came to India and received patronage from Ibrahim Khan, son of Ali Mardan Khan. Mulla Muhammad Baqir was from Shiraz and after getting knowledge in mathematics and theology in Shiraz, he came to India for better prospects. He enrolled himself under the service of Ibrahim Khan, one of the nobles of Shahjahan.⁷⁰

Mulla Tughara migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He was a poet in Iran, and he migrated to India in search of fame and recognition. Mulla Tughara felt that his talent could not get notice in Iran and India was the only place where his work might get recognition. Therefore, he left Iran and came to India. In India, Mulla Tughara served under Prince Murad. He was attached as *Munshi* to Prince Murad. In 1646-47 AD, the imperial army went to Balkh led by Prince Murad and Mulla Tughara accompanied the Prince. Mulla Tughara wrote an account of the campaign called *Mirat al Futuh* or mirror of victories about the conquest of Balkh and Badakhshan by Prince Murad Bakhsh.⁷¹

Mirza Shah Baqir Husain known as Hasil belonged to a reputed family of Mashhad. He was a judicious and educated person. He was also a poet. He migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. He was in service of Prince Murad Bakhsh in India.⁷²

Mir Sayyid Ali migrated to India during the reign of Shahjahan. Mir Sayyid Ali was son of Mir Muqim and Mir Shahmir was his grandfather. They were from Tabriz, Iran. Both Mir Sayyid and Mir Muqim were famous in *Nastaliq*. When the Emperor Shahjahan heard the fame of Mir Sayyid Ali, he invited him to India. Thus, Mir Sayyid Ali and his father migrated to India. Mir Muqim Ali died in early years, but Mir Sayyid Ali entered the court of Shahjahan. The emperor gave him the title of Jawahar Raqami. Emperor Shahjahan appointed him as tutor to Prince Aurangzeb.⁷³

During Shahjahan's reign, a remarkable wave of immigration significantly enriched the Mughal court and administration. Immigrants hailing from various regions, including Balkh, Iran, and Central Asia, brought with them diverse backgrounds, talents, and expertise. Their motivation for migrating to India was multifaceted, ranging from seeking refuge from political turmoil and religious persecution to pursuing better prospects in the Mughal Empire. Many of these immigrants quickly found themselves in the service of Emperor Shahjahan, where their talents and contributions were duly recognised and rewarded.

These immigrants represented a wide spectrum of society, from nobles and diplomats like Khusrau Sultan and Haji Waqqas, who sought shelter and honour in India due to political upheavals in their native lands, to scholars and poets like Hakim Daud and Mulla Alaul Mulk, who added to the intellectual richness of the empire. Traders like Mir



Muhammad Said and Mirza Saduddin found new opportunities in commerce and eventually became influential figures. Even those who initially served under local rulers, such as Muqarrab Khan, Mir Jumla, and Mirza Mahmud Basil, eventually sought the patronage of the Mughal court.

Furthermore, the Mughal nobility's open-mindedness and patronage of learned individuals and poets from different backgrounds further attracted immigrants to India. These immigrants made significant contributions to various fields, including literature, science, and administration, leaving a lasting legacy in the empire.

In summary, the reign of Shahjahan witnessed a remarkable influx of immigrants who, driven by diverse motivations, played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural, intellectual, and administrative landscape of the Mughal Empire. Their stories are a testament to the inclusive and dynamic nature of the Mughal court during this era.

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- ⁵ Abdul Hamid Lahori, *Badshahnama*, ed. Maulavis Kabiruddin Ahmad and Abdur Rahim, Bib.Ind., Vol.I(a), p. 431.
- ⁶ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II. p. 777. “ In the 6th year, he was presented with a dress of honour, a horse with a gilded saddle, and an elephant, and his son a dress of honour; he was also granted leave to return with Tarbiyat Khan and an answer to the letter he had brought with him.”
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- ⁹ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.I (b), p. 243.
- ¹⁰ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 924.
- ¹¹ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.II, p. 477.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 517-19.
- ¹³ Banarsi Prasad Saksena, *History of Shahjahan of Dihli*, p. 199.
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- ¹⁶ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 510.
- ¹⁷ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.II, pp. 255-56.
- ¹⁸ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 365.
- ¹⁹ Banarsi Prasad Saksena in his book discussed in detail about the whole Balkh and Badakhshan campaign of Prince Murad, see Banarsi Prasad Saksena, *History of Shahjahan of Dihli*, pp. 196-200.
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- ²⁸ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 208
- ²⁹ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 539.



- ³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 472. Muhaammad Husain Dasht Bayazi. The Dasht Bayazi is one of the nine tracts of the country of Qohistan. He was one of the nobles of that country and was the unique for his age for his knowledge of history.
- ³¹ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.I, p. 119.
- ³² *Dhakhirat ul Khawain*, Tr. by Z. A Dessai, Vol.II. p. 226.
- ³³ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, pp. 625-26.
- ³⁴ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.I (a), p. 378.
- ³⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 384.
- ³⁶ *Tazkiratul Umara of Kewal Ram, Biographical Account of Mughal Nobility from the reign of Mughal Emperor Akbar to the Reign of Muhammad Shah*, Tr. by S.M. Azizuddin Husain, p. 156. During fifth RY of Shah Jahan's reign got mansab of 5,000 with the title.
- ³⁷ *Dhakhirat ul Khawain*, Tr. by Z. A Dessai, Vol.II. p. 215.
- ³⁸ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.I (a), p. 441.
- ³⁹ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 550.
- ⁴⁰ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.II, p. 310.
- ⁴¹ *Dhakhirat ul Khawain*, Tr. by Z. A Dessai, Vol.II. p. 198.
- ⁴² *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 186. Ali Mardan got frightened and considered that his safety lay in joining Shah Jahan, and wrote and spoke to S'aid K. the Governor of Kabul.
- ⁴³ *Tazkiratul Umara of Kewal Ram*, Tr. by S.M. Azizuddin Husain, p. 119. During twelfth RY of Shah Jahan's reign got mansab and title of Khan. See also *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 187.
- ⁴⁴ *Dhakhirat ul Khawain*, Tr. by Z. A Dessai, Vol.II, p.150.
- ⁴⁵ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 303. He was distinguished for his ability and understanding. At first he was a servant of 'All Mardan Khan Zeg, the Governor of Qandahar. When the said Khan surrendered that great fort to the imperial officers, some of his best servants also took up service under the State; among these was Murshid Quli Khan.
- ⁴⁶ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.II, p. 158.
- ⁴⁷ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 922.
- ⁴⁸ Lahori, *Badshahnama*, Vol.II, p. 756.
- ⁴⁹ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, p. 447.
- ⁵⁰ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 188, regarding Mir Jumla, Jagdish Narin Sakar wrote a whole biography of him entitled, *Life of Mir Jumla-The General of Aurangzeb*, New Delhi, 1979.
- ⁵¹ Jagdish Narin Sakar, *Life of Mir Jumla-The General of Aurangzeb*, p. 2.
- ⁵² *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- ⁵³ Nicolas Bernier, *Travels in the Mughal Empire*, 1656-68, Tr. by A. Constable, pp. 18-20.
- ⁵⁴ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, p. 189.
- ⁵⁵ M.S Mina, *Subh-i-Sadiq*, Aligarh, p. 68 Cf. Abolghasem Dadvar, *Iranians in Mughal politics and society 1606- 165*, p. 86.
- ⁵⁶ Abolghasem Dadvar, *Iranians in Mughal politics and society 1606-165*, p. 86.
- ⁵⁷ N.A Shirazi, *Haqiqat-ul-Salatin*, Haidarabad, 1961, p. 179.
- ⁵⁸ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.II, pp. 560-61.
- ⁵⁹ Abolghasem Dadvar, *Iranians in Mughal politics and society 1606-165*, p. 119.
- ⁶⁰ *Tazkiratul Umara of Kewal Ram*, Tr. by S.M. Azizuddin Husain, p. 117. Inatullah, son of Amanat Khan, brother of Afzal Khan Mullah Shukrullah.
- ⁶¹ *The Mathir-ul-Umara*, Tr. by Beveridge, Vol.I, pp. 259-60.
- ⁶² Muhammad Tahir Nasrabadi, *Tazkira Nasrabadi*, ed. Wahid Dastgardi, pp. 298-99.
- ⁶³ *Ibid.*
- ⁶⁴ Abolghasem Dadvar, *Iranians in Mughal politics and society 1606-165*, p. 158.



⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 158.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 160.

⁶⁷ M.S Mina, *Subh-i-Sadiq*, p. 68.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, p.73.

⁶⁹ Muhammad Salih Kambo, *Amal-i-Salih*, Vol.III, p. 435.

⁷⁰ Abolghasem Dadvar, *Iranians in Mughal politics and society 1606-165*, p. 283.

⁷¹ Muhammad Salih Kambo, *Amal-i-Salih*, Vol.II, p. 745.

⁷² M.S Mina, *Subh-i-Sadiq*, p. 66.

⁷³ Muhammad Salih Kambo, *Amal-i-Salih*, Vol.III, p. 445. Banarsi Prasad Saksena opined that Sayyid Ali was *Daroga-i-Kitab-Khana* or chief librarian, *History of Shahjahan of Dihli*, p. 277.

