



THE RELATIONS BETWEEN BIJAPUR AND BIDAR DURING 1528 To 1619

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ABSTRACT

The dismemberment of Bahmani kingdom and the establishment of the five shahi families like, Ahemadnagar, Bijapur, Golkonda, Berar and Bidar created an unprecedented political situations in the Deccan. Above everything else it introduced the idea of division and partition fruitful of discord and strife. The inter state relationship of these five Shahi sultanate's is a record of almost continuous strife.



KEYWORDS : *political situations , inter state relationship, border lands.*

INTRODUCTION

The kingdoms being contiguous, frequent disputes were routine matter between them, mostly in a bid to possess the border lands. These border areas, became bone of contention leading to internecine wars. Thus the sultans always entertained bitter animosity against one another and waged protracted wars throughout their existence. One of the cause of the incessant internecine wars may be attributed, as a result of the disintegration of the Bahmani kingdom into improper linguistic divisions, which kept the balance between the elements inhabiting the tableland.

Ismail Adil Shah and Amir Ali Barid

Bidar occupied strategic position in the central Deccan. It was contiguous with the four kingdoms and maintained the balance of power in the Deccan poli- 4.4tics. It acted as a buffer between Bijapur and Golkonda.

Bijapur-Bidar relations from 1528 were guided by the bitter animosity that existed between 'Adil Shah and the Baridis from 1492 onwards. The Bahmani Ministers, Qasim Barid from 1492 and Ali Barid from 1505 utterly disliked the autonomous rule of 'Adil Shahis. Hence, each tried to overpower the other. The Baridis ruled the tottering Bahmani Kingdom with Bidar as its capital. And after the extinction of the Bahmani rule 'Ali Barid became independent ruler of Bidar.

Due to the previous discord and bitterness between Isma'il Adil Shah and Amir Barid, the latter

1. The year in which the last Bahmani Sultan Kalimu'l-lah fled from Bidar to Bijapur and thence to Ahmadnagar. And from which date (1528) the Baridi Minister threw off the Bahmani yoke and established independent Baridi rule.

allied with Burhan Nizam Shah and invaded Bijapur in 1528, but the allies were defeated in a battle that ensued at 20 kos from Bijapur.²

Again during the same year, Amir Barid tried to corrupt the fidelity of the Bijapuri forces to revolt and join him in an attack on Bijapur. He promised to reward them with a share of territory. Adil Shah justly incensed at this treachery, resolved to punish Amir Barid. Thus, in 1529, Adil Shah after obtaining neutrality of Burhan Nizam Shah in this expedition, arrived before Bidar and blockaded the city. After some time, a very severe action ensued, in which the Bijapuris gained an upper hand. Then 'Adil Shah intensified the siege operations, reducing Amir Barid to great distress. Amir Barid sought mediation of 'Alau'd-din 'Imād Shah of Berar for effecting peace. 'Alau'd-din 'Imad Shah personally came and persuaded 'Adil Shah to end the hostilities. But Adil Shah was adamant for the absolute submission of Amir Barid. Amir Barid on hearing the failure of 'Alau'd-din 'Imad Shah's peace mission, left for Udgir and came to the camp of 'Alau'd-din 'Imad Shah again entreating him to effect a settlement. But being informed of 'Adil Shah's terms for peace as actual surrender of the city of Bidar, Amir Barid returned in disgust to his own camp. The Baridi troops were much harassed by the Bijapuris and became careless at night, so that even the outposts lay down to sleep, while many, following the example of their leader, had recourse to wine.³

Ismail Adil Shah having heard of the arrival of Amir Barid ordered Asad Khan, to surprise Amir Barid's camp. Asad Khan went uninterrupted right upto Amir Barid's personal tent and carried him asleep with his cot to Bijapuri camp. Asad Khan presented his important prize to 'Adil Shah, who was overjoyed at the success of the enterprise. Next day the captive Sultan was presented at the Court to 'Adil Shah. Amir Barid was placed opposite of 'Adil Shah, with his head bare and his hands tied behind his back, and exposed to a hot sun. When he had stood for two hours in this situation, 'Adil Shah gave orders for his being put to death, and an executor advanced to do his duty with a drawn scimitar.

Amir Barid, perceiving his helpless condition, condescended to beg his life and pardon from 'Adil Shah on promise of surrendering the city of Bidar and the treasures of the Bahmani rulers. Adil Shah consented to spare his life on these terms. Amir Barid sent orders to one of his sons, acquainting him with the situation, and the agreement he had made. His son returned for answer, that as he was very old, and the period of his existence drawing to a close, it would be a folly to surrender such a fortress for a few remaining days of life. The object of this message, however was only in hope of getting assistance from the allies. At the same time, the sons sent secret instructions through a confidential person to agree to the terms of their father if he was in real danger. Amir Barid affected to complain the cruelty of his sons; but 'Adil Shah who suspected the diplomacy, gave orders for Amir Barid to be trampled to death by an elephant, and ordered his army to make assault on Bidar. Amir Barid again had recourse to entreaty, and begged that he might be carried before a certain tower of the fort, in order that his sons might behold his condition and he thus moved to save his life. This being done, the sons seeing no other means but submission to save the life of their father, offered surrender on condition that they and their own families would be allowed to depart with the clothes on their persons without search. This being agreed upon, they loaded themselves and their women with as many of the valuable ornaments and of the Bahmani rulers as they were able to conceal and retired to the fortress of Udgir.⁵

The Bijapuris now occupied Bidar. 'Adil Shah entered the palace and ascended the throne of the Bahmani Sultanate.

After the fall of Bidar, Darya 'Imad Shah again interceded for Amir Barid. 'Adil Shah at length consented to enrol him among his officers, on Asad Khan becoming security for his fidelity. Kalyani, Udgir and some other districts, together with the revenue derived for the city lands, were allotted for Amir Barid's support on condition of his attending Adil Shah's army with three thousand horse."

2. Briggs, III, 33; Tadhkirath, 25.

3. *ibid.*, 35 ff.; *ibid* 276 b.

4. Briggs loc. cit. 5. *ibid.*, 37 ff.; Tadhkirath, 37.

5. *ibid.*, 37 ff.; Tadhkirath, 37.

This great victory was celebrated by a splendid festival. During this festival, Adil Shah promised to Asad Khan that on his return to Bijapur he would restore Bidar to Amir Barid. But on return 'Adil Shah agreed to restore Bidar to Amir Barid in six months, provided the latter should, deliver the forts of Kal- yani and Qandhar to Bijapur, to which purpose, he was permitted to quit Bijapur.⁸ When Amir Barid neglected to send the keys of the fortress of Kalyani and Qandhar, Adil Shah resolved to reduce them by force.

In the meanwhile, Amir Barid applied to Burhan Nizam Shah for aid. The latter sent his ambassadors to Adil Shah with a request to forego his designs against Bidar. Adil Shah turned down" Nizam Shah's request. In spite of it Burhan Nizam Shah again sent a message, acquainting Adil Shah to comply with his request for the good of Bijapur and be content to remain at home. Adil Shah having already marched from Bijapur, received this communication at Bahmanhally in the evening. He was so indignant that he moved with only a small force to Nal- durg by the evening. He then dismissed the ambassadors of Nizam Shah, telling them, he had done all that was incumbent on him to avoid a war. Consequently, due to Bidar, Bijapur and Ahmadnagar came to direct clashes. And Burhan Nizam Shah along with the Amir Barid marched to the frontiers of Bijapur, to meet the challenge of Adil Shah. A great battle ensued in which the Bijapuris emerged victorious and Amir Barid reconciled to Adil Shah.¹⁰

In 1534 Ismail Adil Shah and Amir Barid together marched to Golkonda and laid siege to Kovilkonda. Though the campaign was successful still due to the illness and death of 'Adil Shah it ended abruptly in September 1534.¹¹

During the period of political instability at Bijapur from 1534 to 1542, the relations between the two states were peaceful.

Ibrahim Adil Shah I and Amir Barid,

In 1542, following a breach between Ibrahim Adil Shah I and his minister Asad Khan, Amir Barid and Burhan Nizam Shah circulated insidious reports that

Asad Khan had promised to deliver Belgaum to them, whenever they approached. Accordingly they invaded Bijapur, wresting the five districts dependent on Shōla- pūr. After this they proceeded to Belgaum. Asad Khan though originally not a party to the invasion, deemed it prudent, in order to save his estates from plunder, to join them on their approach with six thousand horse. The allies, inspired with fresh coverage by this accession of power, spread desolation through the country to the neighbourhood of Bijapur. Adil Shah, unable to oppose them in the field, retired with his family to Gulbarga.¹²

Asad Khan, still loyal to Adil Shah, sought secretly assistance of 'Imád Shah of Berar. The latter promptly complied with the request and moved to Gul- barga. The allies-Amir Barid and Nizam Shah, then lying before the citadel of Bijapur, raised the siege and after devastating the suburbs of the city, marched for the purpose of preventing the junction of Berar army with that of Bijapur. But when the combined armies of Bijapur and Berar got ready to give battle, Amir Barid and Nizam Shah retreated towards Daulatabad. The expedition came to an end due to the death of Amir Barid.¹³

After the death of Asad Khan in 1549 Adil Shah agreeably to his last will, gave the former's daughter Mahtab Bi in marriage to 'Ali Barid Shah, and sought an alliance. ¹⁴

6. *ibid.*, 39 ff.

7. the same

8. the same. 9. the same.

10. *ibid.*, 41.

11. *ibid.*, 42 f.

12. Briggs, III, 54 f.; Basatin, 56 f.

13. the same.

14. *ibid.*, 60 f.; Basatin, 64.

In 1549, when Burhan Nizam Shah effectually blockaded Kalyani, 'Ali Barid sought Ibrahim Adil Shah's assistance. The latter marched with an army to the rescue of Kalyani, and encamping within sight of the enemy, threw up an entrenchment around his army, not choosing to risk a battle on the plains. The Bijapuri and Ahmadnagar armies now came to direct clash.¹⁵

In 1564 'Ali Barid joined Adil Shah, along with Qutb Shah and Nizam Shah in the battle of Banihatti against Vijayanagar. After which battle, the rival kingdoms of Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golkonda became too powerful for the Sultan of Bidar.

In 1569, 'Ali Barid, on being persuaded by Ibrahim Qutb Shah, joined the confederacy against Bijapur and they, decided to attack Bijapur. This design did not materialise owing to Nizam Shah's sudden desertion.¹⁶

In 1570 'Ali Barid and 'Ali Adil Shah joined the confederacy, initiated and planned by Ibrahim Qutb Shah, against Nizam Shah. The tripartite alliance was never realised due to the advance diplomatic strategy of Nizam Shah.¹⁷

In 1572, 'Ali Adil Shah agreed with Murtaḍā Nizam Shah to allow the latter to have a free hand in the latter's conquest of Bidar.¹⁸

During the rest of the reign of 'Ali 'Adil Shah I and the early period of Ibrahim Adil Shah II's reign there was lull in the Bijapur-Bidar relations, as these Sultans were busy in their campaign in the south.

In 1619 Ibrāhīm 'Adil Shah II marched against Bidar to punish Amir Barid who had maintained the family tradition of hostility to Bijapur. Bidar fell and was annexed to Bijapur.¹⁹

15. Briggs, III, 62; Further Sources, III, 254 adds that 'Ali Barid promised to surrender the to Ibrahim Adil Shah if he helped him, in the war against Ahmadnagar.

16. *ibid.* 154; 17. *ibid.*, 256 f.

18. *idem*,

19. Futhat, 229; G. Yazdani, Bidar: Its History and Monuments,¹⁴

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