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(Masood Ahmad Khan)
INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Golkonda dating back from the grant of the Tarafdar of Telangana together with the title of Amirul Umara and the charge of the fort of Golkonda to Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk Shihabuddin Mahmud, the Bahmani Sultan in 901/1496 and ending in the Mughal capture of the Golkonda fort and the person of Sultan Abul Hasan Qutb Shah on 21 September, 1687, had a long and chequered history. The taraf of Telangana under Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk consisted of the territory lying between the great fortress of Golkonda and the old Kakatiya capital, Warangal while the territory between Warangal and the sea was under the occupation of the local chieftain, Reddis or Rayaks. But in course of time the kingdom spread in all directions until in its keyday it extended on the east coast as far south as San Thome and inland as far as Penukonda, Karnul and Indur while its north-eastern border ran with the border of northern Orissa.

The kingdom was a meeting point of the cultures of northern and southern India, of Persia and Central Asia, Abyssinia and Arabia, and was visited by Europeans and other foreigners. It saw a complete understanding between the Hindus and the Muslims, the Shias and the Sunnis.

The kingdom in general and its magnificent capital, Haidarabad in particular became the cradle of cultural growth in its manifold aspects. Literature - Persian, Dakini (proto-
Urdu) and Telugu flourished tremendously. Architectural activity brought new patterns, unique style, varied forms of decoration, ornamentation and elaboration in the public works, town planning, planting of groves, laying out gardens and construction of the mosques, palaces, gateways, tombs etc. and the social norms, decorum and public and court etiquette -- all these point out to the great efflorescence of the peculiar culture known as the Deccani culture.

In its long history extending for two centuries, the Kingdom of Golconda passed through various phases of political and cultural development. Its fortunes were presided over by a set of brilliant rulers who contributed to its political, cultural, administrative, social and economic growth.

The first two rulers of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk and Jamshid Quli Qutb-ul Mulk were great men of desiring courage, initiative, enterprise and integrity. They safeguarded the country's frontiers against the onslaughts of the ambitious neighbours, the predatory raids of the internal mufu-holders, military and diplomatic manoeuvres of the great Hindu Empire of Vijayanagar and the stresses and strains of interregnum warfare among the Deccan Sultanates. But it goes to the credit of Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk and Jamshid that they never styled themselves as Kings and considered themselves as tenants of Tilang and loyalty
served the cause of the tottering Bahmani Empire in the days of its fading glory and eventual fall.

The Deccan during the 16th and the 17th centuries had become the hot-bed of political trickery and intrigues, the intervecine and sterile warfare among the Sultanates with shifting alliances, changing loyalties, machinations and recurring raids by one state on the territory of another. It sapped the vigour and vitality of their weak economy and proved a danger to the social and economic advancement, particularly in the fields of trade and industry, urban growth, maritime activity and rural economy.

This perennial warfare brought forth the concept of 'balance of power' among the Deccan states as a concrete measure to ensure the survival and self preservation in the face of the avaricious moves and ambitious designs of the neighbouring kingdoms. It also bred suspicion, distrust and lack of faith against one another among the Deccan states. One redeeming feature of the norms of warfare in the Deccan was that on the conclusion of the hostilities when the trial of strength was decided one way or the other, both the victor and the vanquished repaired to their respective capitals and did not pursue the matters to the final end and extermination of one party by the other. In this way the rules of game afforded ample opportunity to the loser to recoup and refresh for another ordeal.
The Deccan states betrayed lamentable lack of political acumen and foresight in their inter-state relations in the first phase of their existence extending up to 1680 when they were the masters of their respective houses. They neglected to form a working partnership in the task of construction and co-operation, avoid war, tend to boost industry, trade and agriculture and organise joint defence in the face of external and internal foes. Their energies were wasted away in the arena of ceaseless warfare actuated by small gains and losses and haunted by the constant dread of their neighbours' constant encroachments and incursions. They entered into matrimonial alliances in search of making allies but even these were utilised for war purposes.

The history of this first phase of the span of existence of the Deccan states, extending from 1496 to 1680 is a story of a perennial, thoughtless conflict for acquisition of forts, territorial gains, retention of buffer states and maintenance of balance of power and subjugation of internal subversion and party strife at respective courts. It would not, and could not sustain endeavours of reconstruction and reforms. Even the short-lived unity at the Battle of Benahatti, 1535, was forged upon the Deccan Sultanates by compelling circumstances engendered by the domineering attitude of Rana Ray of Vijayanagar who had injured the religious susceptibilities of the Sultans and posed a grave danger to their survival but that too was for limited,
objectives only. The post-Banibatti attitudes of the Sultanates betray the hollowness of their aims and ideals.

Curiously enough, the Deccan Sultanates failed miserably to realise the nature and the magnitude of the Mughal menace to any appreciable extent. No doubt they were rendering military and financial help to one another in times of emergency, invasions threatening their existence and conditions imposed by their Mughal victors to curtail or impair their independence but their utter incompetence to rise to the occasion by organising joint defence under a unified command, their pooling together of their common resources, material and men power, their organising the guerilla warfare and harnassing the Maratha war potential to prolong conflict for wearing out the patience of the Mughal troops who were unfamiliar with the geographical conditions and land formations in the Deccan and unaccustomed to attacking tactics of the light cavalry in the hilly tracts of the Deccan plateau were the chief factors which caused their decline and extinction as independent states. After Malik Amber no organising genius was born to knot together the disintegrated threads of the torn fabric of the defence of the Deccan sultanates. The apathy of Bijapur and Golconda towards Ahmadnagar on the eve of its annexation and their shameless partaking of the ruins of that state as well as the Karnataka problem between Golconda and Bijapur in the reign of Abdullah Qutb Shah are sufficient
pointer to demonstrate the incapacity, incoherence, lack of goodwill and good faith. Fraternity and solidarity on the part of Golconda and Bijapur in their relations inter se.

On the history of the Deccan Sultanates a number of works have already appeared e.g., 'History of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty' by Professor N.K. Sherwani, 'The Kingdom of Ahmadnagar' and 'The Life History of Malik Amber' by Dr. Radhey Shyam, 'History of Bijapur' by D.C. Verma, 'External Relations of Bijapur Kingdom' by Dr. Nayee and some others but the important theme of Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur has not so far attracted this attention of the Scholars. Hence this work is attempted to fill in the lacuna in this gap of our studies of a very significant aspect of the history of medieval Deccan.

SOURCES:

The source material bearing on the Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur is both extensive and varied. There are number of Chronicles, both Deccani and Mughal, number of letters particularly those exchanged between Mungozub and Abdullah Qutb Shah and the Dutch and English records. A bibliography of the main sources and secondary works is given at the end of the dissertation. A brief description of some of the main sources is given below:
1. *Burhani Na'athir* by Syed Ali b. Asimullah Tabatabai is the first Indo-Persian Chronicle on the history of the Qutb Shahi dynasty written in the Deccan. The author gives an eye-witness account of the siege of Naldurg from September 1681 to January 1682 under the reigns of Ibrahim and his successor Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah.

The author was in the service of Qutb Shahs and then migrated to Ahmadnagar and served Burhan Nizam Shah II (1591-95) who asked him to write this work. The work is divided into three sections dealing with (1) the Bahmanis of Gobarga (2) the Bahmanis of Bidar and (3) the history of the Nizam Shahs upto Burhan II. But he has written much on the history of Golkonda - Haiderabad from Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk to Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah and gives useful details about them. His references to Golkonda - Bijapur relations are interesting and useful.

2. *Gulabami Ibrahimi or the Tarikh-i Perishta* by Mohd. Qasim Hindu Shah Perishta who deals at Bijapur in 1623. The work is very important for the history of medieval India but the author devotes only five pages to the Qutb Shah in which he has committed some mistakes about the facts.

3. *Tarikh-i Mohammad Qutb Shah* by an anonymous writer. This is a contemporary work and gives information in detail about all the matters from Sultan Quli Qutb-Ul Mulk to Mohammad
Qutb Shah. The most significant part of this work is that which gives details about the relations among the Deccani Sultanates and also with the Mughal Emperors. The author particularly tells as to how the Deccani States organised a front against Akbar and Jahangir consequently they achieved many successes. There is no doubt about the truth of this statement which is corroborated from other sources as well. He was a historian of the Golconda kingdom but his name does not occur in toshir sources. So we do not have any knowledge about the life of the author.

4. Futuhat-i Adil Shahi by Fuzuni Astarabadi. Originally he belonged to Persia. He migrated from Persia to Bijapur where he wrote a book on the history of the Adil Shahi dynasty. It also gives in details the relations between Deccani states and the Mughal Emperors especially with Akbar and Jahangir.

5. Tadbikrat-ul Mulk by Rafiuddin Ibrahim bin Nuruddin Taufiq Shirazi was born in 1510-11 A.D. He served under Ali Adil Shah and Ibrahim Adil Shah II. The work is the history of the Bijapuri Sultans upto Ibrahim Adil Shah II. It gives important details of History of the Qutb Shahs and the Bijapur-Golkonda relations. He praises Ibrahim Qutb Shah and gives very useful information about the foundation of the new capital of Hyderabad.
6. **Tabrez’s Golconda Letters (1634-1644)**: Tabrez’s letters throw abundant light on the historical, strategic and topographical details of the region, and the modes and the machination of the three powers, Bijapur, Golconda and the Mughal Empire in the Karnataka. This is the unique collection highlighting an important phase of the Golconda-Bijapur relations as well as Mughals’ intervention and to fish in the troubled waters, and formed the whole affairs to their advantage. With the towns bone of contention between the two (Bijapur and Golconda).

The work is undated, but is contemporary with the period which it refers to in detail. The author (Tabrez) Nasirul Mulk Hasi Abdul Ali popularly known as Tabrez, migrated from Tabrez of Persia. He was an eye witness to the happening described in the collection of letters, sent by or to Abdullah Qutb Shah, Abul Hasan Qutb Shah and some nobles of Golconda court. Karnataka was a territory which was a remnant of former Vijayanagar Empire. It was ruled by the Nayaks and Zamindars who were not powerful enough. Bijapur and Golconda formed an alliance to reduce the Karnataka to submission and to divide the territory in the proportion of 2/3 and 1/3 respectively.
The letters throw important sidelights on the Mughal relations with Bijapur and Golconda, as well as the relations of these states inter se. The policies, plans, strategy and diplomatic and military weaknesses of these two states were also exposed. The Mughal diplomatic moves and manœuvre vis-à-vis the Deccan states and the Mughal policies to keep alive tension and conflict in the Deccan as well as their attempt to seduce the Deccan generals into their services are amply manifested. This collection fills the gaps in our essential information about the Deccan policy of the Mughals as well as the political and military situation in the Deccan and the diplomatic overtures of the Deccan states. Hence, the value and utility of this unique collection of letters is great indeed.

There are some of the more important original sources studied in preparation of this dissertation. A detailed bibliography of the original and secondary works for the study of the subject is given at the end.
CHAPTER - I

DISINTEGRATION OF BAHMANI KINGDOM AND RISE OF THE QUTB SHAIHI DYNASTY.

The Bahmani Kingdom was established by Alauddin Hasan in 1347, on the ruins of the Tughlaq Empire. It was a sort of reaction to the policies of Mohammad bin Tughlaq in the south. He was a man of great courage and initiative and from the position of amir he became leader and king in the Deccan. In a short period of ten years up to 1358, he subdued every part of the Deccan previously subjected to the throne of Delhi and the kingdom reached its fullest extent under him. It stretched from sea to sea including the Deccan district of the Bombay Presidency, the old Hyderabad State and these district of the Madras Presidency which used to be called Northern circars.

Alauddin Hasan was succeeded by his son Mohd. Shah in 1368. His reign combined both extension and consolidation and he was the best King of the Bahmani dynasty. The next was Mubahid Shah Bahmani 1375-1378. He was loved by all his

The Hindus in love called him Balwant. He was succeeded by his uncle Daud Shah Bahmani.

The next ruler of Mohammad Shah II who was patron of Art and Literature and took great interest in welfare of the subjects and in education, ruled about twenty years. After Mohammad Shah his eldest son, Ghayasuddin, ascended the throne who shortly afterwards was replaced by Samsuddin Bahmani. In his reign the court politics and the ambitions of chief nobles under Prime Minister became very active. The chain of assassinations, imprisonments, replacements of the rulers, and the notorious court politics continued until 1397, where Firuz Shah 1392-1422 opened a new chapter of peace and prosperity in the Bahmani Empire. He encouraged the immigration of the foreigners for making the Deccan one of the greatest centres of culture in the east. He also encouraged the Hindus in Government employment.

He was succeeded by his brother Ahmad Shah Wali who continued his predecessors policy. In this way a new element

4. Ibid., 129-33.
5. The Kingdom of Ahmadnagar, Radby Shyam, 9.
in the power politics was added and that was the foreigners against the Deccanis. The foreigners, occupied the bulk of high offices which was disliked by Deccanis. The strain between two groups was further embittered by their conflicting religious belief. The foreigners were mostly Shias while the majority of their rivals, the Deccanis and Abbesinians were Sunnis. Sultan Ahmad Shah changed his capital, Gulburga to Bidar. This move was fraught with dangers. It did not serve to soften the attitudes of the foreigners and the Deccanis and finally led to the fall of the kingdom. The appointment of Khalaf Hasan Basari, a foreigners and as Prime Minister with the highest title of Mali-ul-Tajjar, was resented by the Deccanis who came in conflict with the foreigners.

When the Bahmani army was defeated thrice by the Gujrat forces due to the lack of cooperation 1428-1431 A.D. The Akqi — Deccanis disputes took a dangerous turn. The result was that the Deccanis were raised to power and given the reins of powers. A notable persons among them was Mian Mohd. Nisam-ul-Mulk who was given the title of Malik-ul-Tajjar. Still the Deccanis were neglected by the king. The next

1. The Kingdom of Ahmadnagar, Radhey Shyam, IO.
2. The Bahmanis of the Deccan, Sherwani, H.K. 180-84.
3. Ibid., 180.
4. Ibid., 191-93.
5. Ibid., 193-95.
ruler Alauddin Ahmad reverted to the policy of favouring the foreigners, and the conflicts between the Afghans and the Deccanis became very acute. The king married three of his sisters and of his daughters to the foreigners, and gave them the highest post of honour and the responsibility.

The next king was Alauddin Humayun Shah who had defensive for the foreigners. The advent of Malik Gawan in the politics of the Deccan gave a new shape to the long-standing party strife which entered in its last phase. The great Minister Mahmud Gawan effected many reforms and rendered great services to the cause of the Bahmanis. He succeeded where all others failed to maintain the political balance by a just distribution of the places of confidence and profit among the nobles of the two parties during his ministry the frontiers of the kingdom extended from sea to sea, the Konkan was occupied, the Godawari, Krishna were annexed, and an expedition was sent into the very heart of Orissa and Kandi and the ambitions of the Malwa, Orissa and Vijayanagar were checked.

4. The Kingdom of Ahmadnagar, Radhey Shyam, 14.
After assassination of the Mahmud Gawan, Malik Hasan Nizamul Mulk Bahri became the Prime Minister. The Afaqis were depressed and withheld their cooperation from the central Government. Sultan Mohammed III appointed his son, Mahmud as heir. The reign of Sultan Mahmud (1482-1518) witnessed the decline and fall of the Bahmani Empire. The political power moved into the hands of Malik Hasan who became the regent of the Bahmani State. Malik Hasan hatched a plot to murder his rival like Yusuf Adil Khan, the leader of the Afaqis along with his followers. But the plot could not succeed. Both Malik Hasan and Yusuf Adil Khan the leaders of Deccani and Afaqis were apprehensive and distrustful of each other and were plotting the ruin of each other. Hasan wanted to remove Yusuf Adil Khan from the governorship of Bijapur and to replacing by Adil Khan Deccani so he requested the Sultan to hold a review of their provincial levies. And he prevailed upon the Sultan to say to Yusuf Adil Khan and Fatimullar Imad-ul Mulk that their Turkish army were not up to the mark. Adil Khan Deccani ordered to punish the Afaqis for their audacity. For twenty days there was bloody conflict between Afaqis and Deccani at Bidar and 4,000 men were killed in that struggle. In the end Yusuf Adil Khan left for Bijapur and Malik Hasan became supreme at Bidar. Now Malik Hasan

gave the highest post to the Deccani. His son Malik Ahmad was assigned Bir town Dharur and many other districts. Fakhru'l Malik Deccani was giving the rank of 5,000 horse and his son was conferred the title of Khwaja Jehan. Fathullah Imadul Malik was appointed Wazir and his son Sheikh Alauddin was appointed as his father deputy in Berar. Qasim Band, another Deccani noble who was very active against the Afghis was appointed Kotwal of the city of Bidar. For the next four years Malik Hasan was supreme at the capital. But now the Sultan had also come of the age and began to hear the complaint against the Prime Minister Dilawar Khan Habshi, the leader of the Habshi party operated against the Prime Minister. In tricks and counter tricks were worked and to strengthen his party. Malik Hasan patronised Malik Imji and his brother Malik Ahmad over the dependence of Mahmud Savan. Malik Hasan now thinking of carving out a principality for himself and to overthrow the Bahmani Sultan. For this purpose he gave the two important forts Paredan and Sholapur to Khwaja Jehan.

In short all the ambitious persons were thinking for declaring their independence. Malik Hasan could not check the internal disorder of the aggressive designs of the


neighbouring states. The Deccani Afaquis disputes led to the decline and fall of the Balbani Empire more than any other factor could do. In 1496 Adil Khan the governor of Warangal died. Qiwam-ul-Mulk the governor of Raja Mandori occupied the whole of Tilangana and Warangal. Malik Hasan now marched against him. Yusuf Adil Khan supported the rebels against the Prime Minister Qasim Barid and eyes. Imadul Mulk also turned against the Prime Minister. The Sultan was also persuaded to issue a Farman to kill the Prime Minister. The conspiracy succeeded and the Prime Minister was killed. The Deccanis decided to punish the Afaquis and were found by the Habsbys. The tried to kill the Sultan but could not succeed due to the loyalty of the Afaquis. Qasim Barid declared his independence. The Sultan sent Delawar Khan against him but he was defeated and killed. Qasim Barid entered the capital and forced the Sultan to appoint him the Prime Minister and assigned to him Daultabad and Balaghat in Jafir. He wanted to rule in the name of Sultan but the provincial governors could not tolerate him so they marched against him and defeated him at the battle of Deoni. Later on Qasim Barid again returned to Bidar and began to assert his authority. The Deccan politics remained a

a confused state. Malik Ahmad, the son of Murdered Wazir carved
out on independent state, the Nizam Shahi kingdom of Ahmadnagar,
Mil Shah, of Bijapur, Imad Shah of Berar, Qasim Barid of Bidar
Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk of Tilangana declared their independence
and became founder of states.

The Rise of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty:

Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk, the founder of the Qutb Shahi
dynasty of Gokonda ranks among the great adventurous fortune seekers of Medieval Indian history. His rise to power
and eminence from the position of fugitive an interesting episode in the Deccan history.

Sultan Quli's ancestry up to the fifth degree is traced
up to Qara Muhammad, the chief of the Qara Qayunlu tribe of
Armenia, Azerbaijan in the work Tarikh-i Muhammad Qutb Shah
as well as the geneology in the hand writing of his grandson
Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah. Both these pieces have come down to
the up Qutb-ul Mulk came with his uncle Allah Quli to the
Mohammedabad Bidar in Deccan in the reign of the Bahmani
Sultan Muhammad Shah Lashkari, whose reign was a period of

1. Q.S, 31-32.

Sultan Quli - though, this name indicates the peculiarity of royal dignity, but in real sense neither it was the sign of royal dignity, nor was the title. It was simply a name. Qara Qayunlu and Aq Qayunlu.
Internal peace as well as extension of the boundaries of the Bahmani Sultan but the government was virtually in the hands of the dowager Queen Makhлина-i Jahan Nargis Begam and after her in the hands of Khwaja-i Jahan Mahmud Gawan the Wazir. But after the death of the dowager Queen in 14th century with the murder of the Khwaja successor Malik Hasan Nizam-ul Mulk Prime Minister in 1438, the Bahmani kingdom took to rapid decline. After the death of Mohammad II, the Lashkari there was utter confusion and lack of leadership in the kingdom, the Deccani Afaqis quarrels and the tendency on the part of the Provincial governors to carve out independent kingdoms quickened the pace of ruin and decline. The new king (Sultan Mahmud) under the tutelage of Malim Qasim Barid, the self appointed Prime Minister could not make any improvement and the governors of the different provinces like Yusuf Adil of Bijapur, Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar and Futuhullah Imadul Mulk of planned to assume semi-independent status. According to Tarikh-i Mohammad Qutb Shah, the Bahmani Sultan was too much pleased to Sultan Quli valour and fast and gave him the title of Khwaja Khan. And later of Qutb-ul-Mulk for his service for saving the Sultan from the danger of the rebellious Bahmanis

3. Q.S. 37.
   Tadh. 1349-1362.
   Faz. II, 167.
when the Sultan was surrounded by the rebels who plotted to kill him, and only the loyalty and bravery of Khwas Khan, Jahangir Khan and Hasan Khwaja-i Jahan protected from the death trap. Another important event in the career of Sultan Quli was the success in the campaign against Bahadur Gilani the Tarafdar of Goa.

Qutb-ul-Mulk stood perfectly loyal and staunchly devoted to Sultan Sahabuddin Mahmud, the Bahmani even during the days of decline of the Bahmani states when the various Tarafdaras were asserting their independence. The Sultan had become virtual prisoner in his palace in Bidar Mohandabad in the hands of Qasim Barid. But he was so pleased with the loyalty of Qutb-ul-Mulk that in 1496 he granted him the title of Amir-ul Umra and the Tarafdar of Tilangana and the great fort of Golkonda was added already to his extensive Jagir. When Qasim Barid was reducing the Sultan to the status of puppet, recent a secret message to Yusuf Adil, Mizam-ul Mulk and Qutb-ul Mulk to come to his help. Qutb-ul-Mulk went and besieged Qasim town and Jagir Misa and compelled back to pardon of the Sultan.

2. Fer. I, 368.
In this way Qutb-ul Mulk had rendered conspicuous services to the cause of the tottering Bahmani Empire and during the life time of Sultan Salahuddin, it was Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk alone who never deviated from the path of obedience and loyalty to his sovereign. Though he was exercising full authority over Tilang yet he obeyed all the commands of his master and was present to sacrifice everything of his in the service of his master. It is noteworthy that Sultan Quli never assumed royal authority during his life time. This practice was continued by his son Jansh.
CHAPTER - II

THE INITIAL PHASE — SULTAN QULI QUTBU'L MULK

JANGHAR SUBHAN (1496 - 1550)

On the decline of the Bahmani Empire of the Deccan ambitious nobles and Tarafdars postured ambitious of asserting independence and aggrandizing themselves at the cost of the Empire. Sultan Bahabuddin Mahmud, last great ruler of the Bahmanis maintained the semblance of unity and integrity of the Empire by his energetic efforts and by the loyalty, devotion and diplomacy shown without standing merit by the great Tarafdar of Tilangana, Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk. During Sultan Mahmud's reign the relations which Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk maintained with Adil Shah, the Tarafdar of Bijapur, were guided solely by the motive of rendering loyal services to the cause of the Bahmani Empire.

An instance in point, was the attitude of Yusuf Adil Shah of Bijapur towards assertion of independence first by capturing some forts and adjoining territory in 1501 and then his declaration as Shisedwata state religion at Bijapur in 1502. This had provoked the Sultan to sending Qutbul Mulk against Yusuf Adil to prevent his religious jousts and moves.

1. Sultan Quli — through this name indicates the peculiarity of royal dignity, but in real sense neither it was the sign of royal dignity nor was the little. It was simply a name.

Qutbul Mulk advanced to attack YusufAli Shah and in the
negotiation to the followed at a meeting attended to, they
agreed to protect the position of the Asafiris in the Sate
as well as safeguard the interest of the State against
rebellions and subversion and in maintaining the integrity
of the Bahmani Sultanate and the position of Sultan Mammad.
In this way Qutbul Mulk showed the way to others not to
harbour rebellions design and prevent succession trends.
Though Sultan Quli was also a Shia and the Taraffirs of
Bijapur and Ahmadnagar declared shi'ism as the religion of
their respective territories, yet he was not willing to
support such measures by the respective Taraffirs as they
would undermine the authority of the Sultan and help separatist
trends to develop.

It goes to credit of Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk that he
was the most trusted general of the Bahmani nobility under
Mammad who reposed full confidence in him and was constantly
supported by the loyal services of Qutbul Mulk in all the
difficult circumstances and heavy odds facing the Sultan.
Qutbul Mulk had the unique distinction of never styling himself
as the all the independent ruler of Golconda and simply contended
himself by styling him as Qutbul Mulk even he was virtually
independent.

1. C.S. 47.
2. L.B. 200.
4. C.S. 49.
Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk's activities during the lifetime of Sultan Mahmad of Bahman constitute a distinct phase of his career and policy in which his prime motive of the Sultan together with promoting the interest of the Bahmani States and its rulers. But on the death of Sultan Mahmad in 1518 when the different Tarafsars and Fiefholders of the state asserted their independence, Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk was also drawn into the arena of power politics leading to independence and self assertion. It was he that his role as a great strategist and diplomat showed his

Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk's policy was aimed at, in the first instance, to maintain a balance of power among the conflicting forces in the Deccan politics, so that no state among the successors of the Bahmanis and in any other local power should be so strong as to dictate or dominate others and pose a threat to the existence of survival of other state, secondly the local elements in Golconda and other regions like the subordinate the Hind Princes should not disturb the authority of the Golconda State and thirdly the powerful Vijayanagar Empire should not ally itself with anyone or more States in the Deccan so as to upset the balance of power and in the region.

1. For, I, 162.
   Briggs, III, 322.
The kingdom of Bijapur was established by Yusuf Adil Shah the Tarafdar of the region in 1501, and shiaism was declared its state religion in 1502 with a view to giving to Bijapur a separate statehood with definite policies and distinct character, different from the Centre State at Bidar. All these activities of Yusuf Adil Shah ignited Sultan Mahmud. Therefore in 1505, he sent an urgent message to Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk and ordered him to march against Yusuf Adil Shah and teach him a lesson. The inclination of Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk was also towards Shiaism but he—Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk did not seek favour these new development on the part of the Tarafdars of Bijapur and Ahmadnagar and others because he was loyal to the house of the Bahmani. Therefore he made all possible attempts to maintain the integrity of the state and to bring various Tarafdars to the support of the Bahmani Sultan. A treaty was concluded among them and was decided that they should do all works jointly seeing the interest of Bahmani kingdom in future. But Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk's hands were also tightened because the everlasting Deccani Afghans conflict had forced him not to antagonise the Afghans as he himself belonged to that categories.

1. R.C. 17.
3. Ibid. 169.
In 1610 Yusuf Muh Shah of Bijapur died and was succeeded by his son Ismail Muh Shah, a boy aged twelve. He sent his envoys to the neighbouring kingdoms in order to formalise his succession as to gather strength. But his Wazir Kamal Khan usurped all power in his own hands and the Bijapuri court was divided into two groups. One supporting the boy ruler and the other taking sides with the Wazir. Kamal Khan declared Sunni faith as the State religion and thereby alienated the feeling of a powerful section of the nobility.

The neighbouring rulers chiefly Amir Barid of Bidar wanted to fish in troubled waters of Bijapur and to derive as much benefits as they could lay their hands on. Amir Barid captured some parts of the Bijapuri territory with the active support of Kamal Khan. This resulted in uproar in Bijapur. Kamal Khan was dubbed as a traitor and was treacherously murdered. Later Ismail Muh Shah fought against Amir Barid and recovered lost territories. Amir Barid wished to recapture territory, snatched by Ismail and solicited the help of Golconda and Ahmadnagar who sent their contingent to Bidar to render help to Amir Barid. The allied army marched

1. E.S. 26.
2. E.S. 25-26, 30.
towards Bijapur. Ismail Adil Shah took the challenge and came forward boldly and fell upon Bidar territory. Ismail Adil Shah forced Amir Barid to halt his advance and flee to save himself. But Ismail Adil Shah was determined to put an end to the trouble of Amir Barid. Therefore he attacked the territory of Bidar with full military preparation and arrived at the fort of Bidar. Amir Barid entrenched himself in the fort of Bidar which was besieged by Ismail Adil Shah. In his utter helplessness Amir Barid appealed to Sultan Quli Qutb-ud-Daula for help. The latter did not like a neighbouring ruler to be overthrown by another state and therefore he sent a contingent to rescue the helpless Amir Barid but before it could arrive Bidar had fallen and Amir Barid was made captive by Ismail Adil Shah. Therefore Amir Barid sent urgent request to Imamul Mulk of Berar for his mediation to secure his release. Ismail Adil Shah responded to the call and so on his intercession Amir Barid was released. Meantime Burhan Uzam Shah of Ahmadnagar who was in alliance with Ali Barid wished to capture some parts of Adil Shah's kingdom and so he attacked Bijapur with the force of twenty thousands. Ismail Adil Shah appointed Asad Khan to expel the Ahmadnagar force. In the battle that ensued Asad Khan routed Burhan Uzam Shah who left the field leaving his

1. B.S., 33-34. 
   Briggs, III, 27.
military equipment and luggage which were captured by Ismail Adil Shah. In this way Ismail Adil Shah frustrated the designs of Amir Barid and Burhan Wazir Shah. Now it was the turn of Ram Raj of Vijayanagar to try his best against the rising star of Bijapur. In his encounter against Bijapur Ram Raj succeeded in wresting two important forts Aichur and Budgal from Ismail Adil Shah's possession.

This reverse in the otherwise successful campaign of Ismail Adil Shah had got to be avenged. Therefore he was in search of friends and allies. In consequence, he wanted to cement his friendship with Ahmadnagar by giving his sister in marriage to Durhan Wazir Shah to a promise to handover Sholapur to him as dowry. It was a great brom to Ahmadnagar. Since Sholapur had been a bone of contention between Ahmadnagar and Bijapur, but the fort was actually never surrendered and evasive replies were given by to Durhan Wazir Shah to transfer the possession of fort. His alliance had also stipulated that Adil Shah would seize some part of Golkonda and Burhan would do same from Beeri. According to Nizam Shah of Berar, in the hostilities that was sought to be provoked in terms of the alliance 1532.

1. B.3. 46.
2. B.3. 46.
Q.S. 82-91.
For II 104-106.
Briggs III, 70-71
The Empire of Vijayanagar under Rama Raya reached the climax of power glory and expansion. While he had captured Raichur and Mudgal from Bijapur, he had also seized large territory from Telangana. He was succeeded by Ananta Raya, he was also a powerful and great ruler but Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk succeeded in recovering the last territories of Telangana from him. This was great insult to powerful Raja of Vijayanagar who wanted to chastise Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk for his adventure. He had also came to know of the treaty between 
and Adil Shah
Burhan Nisan Shah in 1532 to expand the territories at the 
expense of Golkonda. The Raja of Vijayanagar seized this opportunity of making a common cause with Ahmadnagar and Bijapur against Golkonda and he gave two thousand buns with others costly presents to Ismail Adil Shah, and promised military help in the prosecution of the war. The Ray further promised to hand-
back the two forts Raichur and Mudgal to Adil Shah which had been captured from Bijapur territory. Ismail Adil Shah now moved from his capital towards Golkonda with a large army and soon captured Golkonda famous fort Kalayan and advanced further towards Kevil Konda and surrounded it. Jafar Beg the commander of Kevil Konda sent urgent summons to Sultan Quli Qutbul Mulk for help. Seeing the helplessness of Golkonda Ali David of Bidar also attacked Golkonda to seize a part of territory. It was a pending situation for Sultan Quli

Qutb ul Mulk. His advisers suggested that since the Golkonda troops were tried due to protracted campaigns in Telangana, it would be advisable to seek friendship with Ismail Adil Shah instead of confrontation, but Qutb ul Mulk replied that he never trusted in number but on God all might, that he would advance to beat the enemy back. An army was sent to reinforce to Jafer Beg and he sent an envoy to Ismail Adil Shah to withdraw his army from Golkonda but later Ismail Adil Shah proved to be haughty and over-confident. Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk resolved to drive away all the enemies from his soil and this stiff opposition to them, he attacked his enemies cautiously but definitely even at the risk of his life. The enemy opposition broke down and they were defeated though Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk, cut on his face by the sword wound, Ismail Adil Shah broken in spirit and health and died in 1534 by fever, fatigue and frustration.

After the death of Ismail Adil Shah, his son Ibrahim Adil Shah ascended the throne. Ibrahim Adil Shah the new ruler was brave and energetic and was hailed by the Shah of Iran as a great ruler. He started with seeking friendship and cordial relations with all the neighbouring kingdoms.

1. R.S, 45-47.
   For II, 25.
   Briggs III, 70-71.
2. R.S, 47.
Towards Golkonda he carried on his father's animosity. At this time Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk was busy in quelling the rebellion of his feudatory, Raja Hari Chandra of Balagoda. The new ruler Ibrahim Adil Shah started hostilities at this critical movement when Qutb-ul Mulk was away to suppress the rebellion. Having entered into an alliance with Ali Barid and attacked Golkonda and captured two forts Kamni and Navalki on the border of two States, Amir Barid attacked from the other side and captured two important forts Medak and Kulas. Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk advanced with a large army to Bijapur and laid siege to Udgir. He sent a letter to Ali Barid condemning his hostile activities and urging him to restore two forts captured by Golkonda. Ali Barid was alarmed and solicited Burhan's help. Nizam Shah on his part was not maintaining good relations with Bijapur because of the question of Sholapur. This strategic fort was promised to Burhan in dowry by Ismail Adil Shah but it was never transferred in terms of the marriage alliance. Burhan Nizam Shah was sore at this unfriendly act on the parts of Bijapur ruler. Ali Barid was an ally of Ibrahim Adil Shah and had thereby a slender chance of help from Nizam Shah but the latter took to strategem. He sent Shah Tahir who was crafty negotiator to Nizam to advise Ali Barid to restore the part of Telangana. He was pleased with the courteous gesture and diplomacy of Shah.

1. Bar, 284-88.
2. Parg, 194-111.
Tahin, Qutb-ul Mulk was much pleased with Shah Tahid and received him with great honour. He consented to enter an alliance with Ahmadnagar against Bijapur by providing adequate help against Bijapur. Burhan Nizam Shah prepared for a conflict with Bijapur and demanded help from Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk. So Qutb-ul Mulk sent a strong contingent of five thousands to Ahmadnagar in support of Burhan Nizam Shah in 1634. Burhan Nizam Shah attacked Bijapur territory with combined forces. Ibrahim Adil Shah came out for the battle. The battle resulted in the defeat of Ibrahim Adil Shah and captured of three forts Mrch, Belgama and Parenda and then he advanced towards Satara where the Qutb Shahi commander changed into victory. The Qutb Shahi General further embolden Burhan Nizam Shah to make an other bit to Satara. In this battle to Burhan Nizam Shah won victory and Adil Shah fled from the battle-field. This victory enhanced the prestige of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk because it was through the efforts of his General that Burhan Nizam Shah had attained signal victory. For the remaining of his life Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk decided to remain in peace with all the neighbouring states and avoid any confrontation and conflict with the power struggle for supremacy in the Deccan, until he was treasonously murdered in 1646.

Burhan, 253-54, 297.
Q.S. 97-104.
2. Faw. 305-11.
3. Faw, 214.
Faw, II, 128.
Biswas, III, 214.


Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk was undoubtedly the greatest of all the contenders among the Deccani Sultanates. These Sultanates had turned the Deccan into a hot-bed of intrigues, subversion and conflicting claims. There was no peace in the region and the contestants for attempting to grab as much territory from one another as they could lay their hands on because it was the formative stage of the establishment of the Deccan Sultanates. But it was also to the credit of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk, that he was hand and hand soldiers above his contemporaries in diplomacy and statecraft because he seldom waged an aggressive war and was the quiet one on the defensive in dealing with neighbours designs.

With the accession of Jamsheed Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk on 2 September 1543 on the assassination of his father Sultan Quli Qutb-ul-Mulk, the fortunes of Golconda and relation with Bijapur entered a period with uncertainty, strife and ceaseless struggle. Untill at last Jamsheed succeeded in restoring the prestige of his state by establishing his dominion in Golconda and making the neighbouring states to seek his alliance.

The new ruler, Jamsheed was congratulated by only one ruler of a State Durbar Hisam Shah of Ahmadnagar and that too,

1. F.R. 314, Radh. 157 b, N. 373.
out of hostility to Bijapur on the Sholapur question while
Vijayanagar, Bidar and Bijapur were very hostile to him and
attempted to replace him by his brother Ibrahim as the ruler
of Tidugana. But Jamshid emerged victorious and strong out
of uncertainty, chaos, confusion and hostility. His one
important concern was the relation of Ali Barid State of Bidar
as a buffer state — between Tidug and the western states.

Ibrahim, the younger brother of Jamshid went to Ali
Barid of Bidar to seek his help. Then Ali Barid and Ibrahim
attacked Golconda uninterruptedly until they besieged Golconda
fort. After three months of siege, Jamshid invoked the close
alliance he had with Burhan Nizam Shah to come to his help.
Burhan chief interest lay in the capture Sholapur and the
district of Panj Tappa from Bijapur and to dominate Bijapur
in the politics of western Deccan. How a quadruple alliance
with Dalva Baad Shah, Jamshid, Jum Raj and Burhan Nizam Shah
was formed against Bijapur, then the invasion came off and
Raisur Panj Tappa were taken, Sholapur was invaded and much
territory of Bijapur was laid waste. Jamshid constructed a

1. Per. II, 22-23.
2. Q.S. 102.
3. Bup. 312.
4. Bup. 312.
5. Q.S. 113-15

Bup. 315-19.
strong fort at Kalni on the Tilangana border and occupied the whole country upto Gulbarga including Yadgir, Alank and Morehal. Burhan took Kohir from Ali Barid who fell back on his territory to defend it and deserted Ibrahim's cause. The latter sought shelter in Vijayanagar.

After this victory and disappearance of Ibrahim from the scene, Burhan staged as state guest at Golconda and offered a crown and other insignia of royalty to Jamshid who categorically refused to accept them lest Golconda should be taken as a protectorate of Ahmadnagar.

After that Jamshid thought himself so secure that he disbanded his army on return to Golconda. Later Ali Barid attacked Golconda and made a deep thrust Jamshid collected a sizable army and whealed round to Bidar. Ali hurried back to his own capital. An indecisive fighting took place between Patanchau and Kalangur.

An decisive combat was inevitable Jamshid resolved to snatch the insignia of royalty of the Bahmani Sultan which were in the hands of Barid Shah at Bidar and also to re-occupy fort of Medak from Ali Barid. The two armies came face

1. Fcr. II, 29, 168.
2. Q.S. 119-111.
   Per. II, 29.
   Briggs, III, 379.
3. Q.S. 103.
   Briggs, III, 381-82; T.O. 28b.
to face at Harayankhera. Hard pressed by the enemy, Ali begged Ibrahim Adil Shah for help. The latter sent Khudawand Khan Habshi to get his help. In the ensuing combat Ali Barid suffered a reverse and retreated and Jamshid annexed. The whole territory round Kanbas taking possession of Harayankhera, Hisnabad and other places. Afterwards Jamshid formed a coalition with himself, Burhan Nizam Shah and Alauddin Imdad Shah of Berer to put amends to that "cheat and fraud" that Ali Barid was. Ali Barid was helped by Ibrahim Adil Shah with a contingent of 5000 under Ikhlas Khan Habshi. Jamshid followed his father's strategy of keeping a reserve. In the fight Ali Barid was routed.

Ibrahim Adil Shah was over the continuance of the coalition and consulted Asad Khan Lari one of his chief nobles who advised to reduce two of the most potent members of the coalition, that is Burhan Nizam Shah by giving him the distinct of Panj Tappa and Ram Raj of Vijayanagar by a letter of friendship and with gifts. Ibrahim Adil Shah did likewise and completely instated Jamshid. Jamshid protested to Burhan who gave an evasive reply calling his peace with Bijapur as merely a truce. He promised to come to come back and fight after rainy season.

1. Q.S. 116; Briggs III, 283; T.Q. 31a.
2. T.Q. 33a-35a; Q.S. 126.
4. For. II 20, 117; Briggs III 93-94.
5. For. II 169; Briggs III, 25.
New Jamshid took it single handed as he was reckless and brave Ibrahim Adil Shah sent Asad Khan to march into Jamshid's territory and pursued him up to the ramparts of Golconda. Jamshid was extremely daring and received a sword cut on his face but forced Asad Khan to retreat. In the end of 1544 Ali Barid invited Ibrahim Adil Shah at Bijapur but in later had the former imprisoned with a view to annexing Bidar. Ali sent an appeal to Jamshid. Burhan Nizam Shah on his part, saw this occasion of territory and power on the part of Adil Shah as a great threat to himself. He had considered the District of Sholapur as his heritate and wished to annex to from Bijapur. In 1547 Burhan Nizam Shah advanced towards Sholapur. Now both Ibrahim Adil Shah and Burhan Nizam Shah sent messages to him for help. Jamshid proceeded to Sholapur with sixty thousand men. He at once asked Ibrahim Adil Shah to release Ali Barid which was done by the former. He remained neutral in the coastal and went to Bidar to reinstate Ali Barid on his MADAD.

1. For. II, 189. 
Briggs, III, 326. 
B. A. 53-60. 
Q. S. 104. 
N. L. 376. 
2. Q. S. 123. 25 
Briggs, II, 326. 
4. Q. S. 126. 
For. II, 10.
Jamshid was great as a ruler, a commander, a diplomat, and a statesman. He had isolated Bijapur by the quadruple alliance, but when he was forsaken of his ally Burhan Nizam Shah, he faced Bijapur attack under Asad Khan and forced the Invader to retreat. He had the magnificence to wrest the person his bitter enemy Ali Barid from the confinement of Ibrahim Adil and to reinstate him on his throne. He showed his Supremacy in 1547 when both Ibrahim Adil Shah and Burhan Nizam Shah solicited his help. During the last two years of his reign when he lay sick his prestige was so great that no Deccan power could dare attack it.

Jamshid was succeeded with his infant son Subhan. Being incompetent by his age, was removed by Ibrahim Qutb Shah.

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1. Fer. II 170.
2. Q. S. 139.
3. T. Q. 1186.
CHAPTER - III

PERIOD OF STRESSES AND STRAINS

IBRAHIM QUTB SHAH (1560 - 1680)

Ibrahim Qutb Shah was acclaimed the ruler of Golkunda in 1560 by all and sundry in the Kingdom of Golkonda. He had passed a large part of his life in exile — at Bidar, Bijapur and Vijayanagar. He was essentially a man of peace who did not like the constant warfare of the Deccan states. At the same time he was eager to see the balance of power among the various Deccan states so that he should not dominate, overawe and subjugate other or others and pose a danger to the stability of power equation in the table land of the Deccan. But the circumstances force him to take recourse to arms to maintain the integrity of his state as well as the security of the others. The Deccan solution had always remained fraught with dangers, culminating in actual warfare. Ahmadnagar and Bijapur were always a daggers drawn and Nizam Shah used to ask for help sometime from Tilang and other times from Vijayanagar in times of adversity. As already described, Jamshid Quli Qutb-ul Mulk, the elder brother of Ibrahim Qutb Shah established the superiority and dominance of Golkonda by diplomacy, daring and

1. Q.S. 110-11.
   Fer. II, 30.
   Briggs, III, 379.
undaunted courage and initiative. Burhan Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar had always been a bitter enemy of Bijapur on the question of Solapur which he strongly believed and claimed to be part of his patrimony. Jamshid and Burhan Nizam Shah were friends and allies and jointly fought against Bijapur. After the death of Jamshid, Burhan Nizam Shah wanted to continue pre friendship with Golconda and sent a new envoy with a letter of congratulation and costly present - with the latter graciously accepted.

On the other hand Ibrahim Adil Shah too coveted Ibrahim Qutb Shah's friendship. He was conscious of the fact that he had given shelter to Ibrahim and helped him militarily many times against Jamshid. Therefore he sent an envoy with felicitations and costly gifts to Ibrahim Qutb Shah on his accession. Ibrahim also accepted this gift. But he knew that the relations of his predecessors were not happy with Bijapur. On his part Ibrahim would not forsake his support to Ahmadnagar. And so he sent his Prime Minister to Ahmadnagar. It resulted in the conclusion of the treaty directed against Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur. According to the terms of the treaty, if a victory is won then Golurga would be taken by Nizam Shah and Yadgir by Ibrahim Qutb Shah. At this moment the death of Burhan Nizam Shah failed their plan.

1. Q.S. 123.
Burhan Nizam Shah was succeeded by Husain Nizam Shah and the treaty was rectified by the new ruler. In pursuance of the treaty, the armies of Ahmadnagar and Golkonda marched and laid siege of Gulbarga. Ibrahim Adil Shah was stunned at the turn of affairs. Thereupon Bijapur sought the alliance of Vijayanagar Ram Ray wrote a letter to Ibrahim Qutb Shah where remained as state guest as exile in Vijayanagar for seven years. He disapproved of this invasion by a friend on another friends' territory. Simultaneously Ibrahim Adil Shah wrote a letter to Qutb Shah reminding him of their past friendship and asking him to keep away from Bijapur territory. Thereupon Ibrahim Qutb Shah returned to his capital. Ibrahim Adil Shah next sent his embassy to Ibrahim Qutb Shah to seek latter's friendship.

At this stage Ibrahim Adil Shah died and he succeeded by Ali Adil Shah both sent costly present to Ram Ray and requesting him to continue alliance within Bijapur and Vijayanagar. Ram Ray was desirous to occupy some parts of Golkonda and he agree to sign on the treaty, then Ram Ray and Ali Adil attacked Golkonda. In his distress Ibrahim Qutb Shah appealed to Ahmadnagar for his help. Husain Nizam Shah responded. But

1. Fer. II, 170.
2. Q.S. 139-40.
3. Q.S. 140-42.
4. History of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty, Sherwani, R.K., 123.
5. B.S. 67-69.
6. B.S. 399-402.
first tried to settle the issue without conflict. Ibrahim Qutb Shah sent his emissaries to Bijapur and Vijayanagar inviting them for talks and the problem was ormentarily solved peacefully. But some rift developed between Ibrahim Qutb Shah and Ram Day of Vijayanagar and the supesial peace was disturbed by two development one was the revolt of Jayadeva into a powerful noble of Golconda who was given asylum in Vijayanagar Empire. The other was the military preparation made by Bijapur to reoccupy Jhohapur and Kalayani forts. Ali Adil Shah wrote to Ram Day for military support and letter set out with a large force. On Ram Ray's request Ibrahim Qutb Shah also reluctantly joined against Ahmadnagar. The allied armies moved on Ahmadnagar captured Kalayani looted and plundered and then advanced for others. When this plunder was on by the invading army Husain Visam Shah's mother Amina Khatoon wrote a letter to Ibrahim Qutb Shah directing his attention to the excesses of Ram Ray troops with the support of Ibrahim Qutb Shah who called himself as a champion of Muslims. Ibrahim Qutb Shah was moved by the letter and he returned to Golconda. Now Ibrahim Qutb Shah wrote back to Amina Khatoon that he would try to make peace between Ahmadnagar and its invaders. He then persuaded Ram Ray to

1. Q.S. 142-45.
2. Q.S. 148-49.
3. B.S. 86-87.
4. B.S. 87.
raise the siege but could not win over. Ali Adil Shah also
was bent upon conquering large parts of Ahmadnagar kingdom
then Qutb Shah sent his Wazir Mustafa Khan to Ram Ray and
succeeded in persuading Ram Ray to raise the siege of Ahmad-
nagar on the promise that a large part of Telengana would be
given to Vijayanagar at the price of peace. So Ibrahim Qutb
Shah gave Kondapalli to Ram Ray while Ali Adil Shah captured
Kalayani from Ahmadnagar. These losses goes to Golkonda and
Ahmadnagar were sizeable indeed. Husain Nizam Shah again
entered into an alliance with Ibrahim Qutb Shah to retrieve
their lost prestige. And you gave his daughter in marriage to
Ibrahim Qutb Shah in order to cement this alliance.

Soon afterwards the combined armies of Golkonda and
Ahmadnagar invaded Bijapur and besieged Kalayani the main cause
of the dispute. Ali Adil Shah did not coup this invasion and
again appealed Ram Ray for help who advanced with a large force
at the call. A new development was the support from Imad Shah
of Berar and Ali Barid of Hidar to Bijapur in opposition of
Ibrahim Qutb Shah and Husain Nizam Shah securing the attack
from four sides Husain Nizam Shah and Ibrahim Qutb Shah withdraw
their states but Ali Adil Shah with Ram Ray made a counter attack on Golkonda and Ahmadnagar. Ram Ray committed the same plunder and excesses as he had done in 1562 on the people of Ahmadnagar. Ram Ray also attacked Golkonda without much success.

By his aggressions and annexation Ram Ray became strong powerful and haughty. The Muslim Sultanaates used to invite him for support in their selfish interest and he used to look upon them as the happy hunting ground to plunder and exploit and make the best out of the situation. The Deccan Sultanates became apprehensive of his rising power and great terror and wanted to halt. Moreover his acts of sacrilege to the Quran and the mosque and captured and outrage of women had angered all the Sultanates. Therefore Husain Vizan Shah, Ibrahim Lutf Shah, Ali Adil Shah and Ali Barid formed a powerful and active alliance to fight against and reduced the power of Ram Ray.

This alliance had been strengthened to matrimonial relations established between Ahmadnagar and Bijapur. This alliance led to battle of Banibattla in 1555. The outcome of the battle was the rout of Vijayanagar press, capture and murder of Ram Ray.

1. B.S. 88-89.
   Q.S. 163-64.
   Fer. II, 127.
   Briggs, III, 224.

2. Bur. 413.

3. The Kingdom of Golkonda - Moreland, 16; Bur. 413-14; B.S. 91.

4. B.S. 92.
   Fer. II, 38.

   B.S. 92-94.
plunder of his capital and wealth and the rise in the power and in the wealth of the Deccan Sultans, and the Deccan states took up the partition of Vijayanagar territory quarrels began to appear. In terms of the pact drawn between four Sultans that the four parts of Vijayanagar would be given to Bijapur these included famous Raichu and Nudgaul. Both after the victory Adil Shah wished to take these forts. Soon Nizam Shah and Qutb Shah sent messenger to Tilm Raj to handover the forts to Adil Shah. With the onset of Munsupur, Tilm Raj put off the handing over of the forts. But Adil Shah thought that Tilm Raj had been induced by Nizam Shah and Qutb Shah through their messengers not to transfer the forts to Adil Shah. Thereafter soon negotiation followed between Qutb Shah, Nizam Shah, Ali Barid and Adil Shah and all accept except Adil Shah left for their states. Ali Adil Shah captured these forts and appointed his commanders. The addition of there forts enhance the power of Bijapur Kingdom.

Here in new developments in Bijapur and Golkonda relations secured the Qutb Shahi vazir Mustafa Khan and took asylum in Bijapur. Ibrahim Qutb Shah was readily

2. Q.S. 150.
3. B.S. 88-89; Q.S. 163-64.
   Fer. II, 157; Briggs, III, 284.
4. B.S. 110.
5. B.S. 110-11.
shocked and the relations between two states become strain. Furthermore, Adil Shah wanted to attain more benefits from Vijaynagar and sent his commander with a force to towards Vijaynagar. Qutb Shah was very much concerned as ever increasing power of Bijapur and he wrote a letter to Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar and Imad Shah of Barar to check Bijapur’s power before it is too late. Realising the gravity of the sub

Nizam Shah and Imad Shah joined Qutb Shah to send an army to Bijapur to lay siege to Shahdurg. Ali Adil Shah was alarmed and marched towards that fort for defence. A fierce battle was fought and won by Adil Shah against the allied army. On this juncture Husain Nizam Shah dead and was succeeded by Kurutza

Nizam Shah a lad of sixteen years. An internal struggle appeared. Ali Adil Shah attacked Ahmadnagar which was involved in domestic quarrels. Kurutza appealed to Ibrahim Qutb Shah for his help and the latter advanced with a large army to Nizam Shah’s help. Both reached Bijapur and compelled Ali Adil Shah to leave and take refuge at Konkan. Ali Adil Shah sent a message to Qutb Shah requesting him for pardon. Then Ibrahim Qutb Shah returned to his territory. Ali Adil Shah’s desire was increase strength and territory and attack all Ahmadnagar

1. Q.S. 132-83.
2. B.S. 113-14.
3. B.S. 114-16.
5. Fer. II, 130; B.S. 428.
1569 and captured Dharur. Murtuza Vizam Shah again sought Ibrahim Qutb Shah help and latter complied with it and Murtuza succeeded in recapturing Dharur. Bijapur lost Kishwar Khan the ablest commander of its forces. The allied army advanced for further action. It was a serious situation for Adil Shah he first of all wanted to alienate Murtuza Vizam Shah from Ibrahim Qutb Shah. He sent a shrewd envoy to Ahmadnagar and conveyed a message to Vizam Shah that he wanted to continue the alliance formed by their respective fathers. Ali Adil Shah wrote an other letter to Qutb Shah to take action to Murtuza Vizam Shah. By the manipulation of Ali Adil Shah. This letter was intercepted by Burhan's men the way the disclosure of this letter upset Murtuza Vizam Shah, and he ordered to massacre the Qutb Shahi envoy with him. And a stiff Qutb Shahi army. In this battle Vizam Shahi become victorious and advanced for the further gain such as the capture parts of Qutb Shahi kingdom. Receiving the news of these reverses Qutb Shah sent Muqarab Khan and Subebat Khan against Murtuza Vizam Shah. There commanders defeated Vizam Shah very badly. In this way Ali Adil shah succeeded in creating rift between Murtuza Vizam Shah and Ibrahim Qutb Shah. Then Ali Adil Shah sent his envoy to Murtuza Vizam Shah and entered an alliance with him against Ibrahim Qutb Shah. According to this alliance the two parities would

1. For. II 131-32.
B. 447.
E. 117.
Briggs III, 417.
Q. 3. 166-69.
eliminate in the first instance Tufail Khan vazir of Berar. And after this they would try to capture Berar. But in the meantime Adil Shah changed the plan and sent a word to Murtaza Nizam Shah that they would first punish Golkonda and latter the punish would be taken against others power. Murtaza Nizam Shah moved against Golkonda and as he reached on the border of Golkonda, Ali Adil Shah attacked Murtaza Nizam Shah from behind. Now Ali Adil Shah again became friendless. He wrote Ibrahim Qutb Shah to form an alliance with him. Ibrahim Qutb Shah was not ready now to have any alliance with Ali Adil Shah. Ali Adil Shah had also strucked terror among the Deccan rulers. So Ibrahim Qutb Shah and Nizam Shah reached on the bank of Krishna to form an alliance. After Ray the ruler of Vijayanagar realising the strength of Ibrahim Qutb accepted his suzerainty. This was great blow to Ali Adil. He approached then Ray who was ultimately persuaded to transfer his suzerainty to Ali Adil Shah.

After gaining the advantage with reference to Attun Roy, Ali Adil Shah took to eliminating Nizam Shah from the support of Ibrahim Qutb Shah several envoys sent by Ali Adil to Murtaza Nizam Shah with professions of sincerity and friendship brought Nizam Shah to the side of Ali Adil Shah and

an alliance between Bijapur and Ahmadnagar was effected with the sole purpose of containing Ibrahim Qutb Shah. The latter was invaded by the allies and defeated and fled from the battlefield leaving his baggage and war equipment.

After this victory Murtaza Visam Shah took steps to annex Berar. The conditions prevailing there favoured this move. Imad Shah had been imprisoned by his over ambitious Wazir Tufail Khan. Wazir Shah directed him to hand over Imad Shah to him. Such a move would upset the balance of power in the Deccan. So Ibrahim Qutb Shah was much perturbed. He wrote Tufail Khan to strengthen Berar's defences and promised to send a contingent to his help. He sent an envoy to Bijapur to form an alliance with himself and Ali Adil Shah against Murtaza Visam. The latter was a shrewd man and he sent an envoy to Bijapur proposing an alliance between Bijapur and Ahmadnagar. Ali Adil Shah preferred an alliance with Ahmadnagar as Golkonda was the traditional enemy of Bijapur. Both decided to invade and reduce Berar which would go to Ahmadnagar after victory but some parts from Vijanagar would also be occupied by the joint effort and given to Bijapur. It was a great setback to Golkonda. The allied army first attacked Golkonda but were

compelled by Qutb Shah. They repeated the adventure and seized Kanlas and Deglur from Golconda. At this time Murtaza Vizam Shah conquered Golconda forts, one by one until he reached Berar and surrounded it Imad Shah and Tufail Khan sent themselves up in Waranala fort but being extremely hardpressed they capitulated. Imad Shah and Tufail Khan were made captives and Berar was annexed to Ahmadnagar by Murtaza Vizam Shah. Simultaneously Ali Adil Shah snatched some forts from Vijayanagar and annexed them.

The conquest of Berar was a great blow to Ibrahim Qutb Shah and optious before him were very hard indeed. He was more keen to contain Ali Adil Shah so as a master trick he acknowledged the suzerainty of Murtaza Vizam Shah and sent an envoy with precious presents to him and appealed to him to render military help against Ali Adil Shah and he promised to pay five thousand Hans per day to him during the continuance of hostilities.

During this time Ali Adil Shah was busy in conquering Karnataka. In 1576 he besieged Renukonda Ibrahim Qutb Shah protested at this and said that in terms of the quadruple arrangement, invasion on Vijayanagar was not permissible by one power without informing the others. He blamed Adil Shah for

this break. Ibrahim Qutb Shah sent an army under Shah Muhammad Ingu towards Bijapur and another army under Amin Khan to the help of Chenelle Nizam at Ramunkonda. In this conflict of 1576 Ali Adil Shah was defeated and then murdered in 1580 and was succeeded by a nephew, a boy of nine years. Ibrahim Qutb Shah took advantage of it, he attached Bijapur and captured a large portion of it.

Kurtaza Nizam took an opportunity to conquer Sholapur and besieged it. Adil Shah formed an alliance with Bidar and sent a strong army against Nizam Shah. The latter was in a dilemma and appealed to Golconda for help and renewal of the friendly alliance. Ibrahim Qutb Shah accepted his appeal and sent an army to his help. The allied army reached Bijapur and besieged Nalwarg fort but failed to reduce it. Adil Shah shut himself up in his citadel. Then the joint armies advanced further and besieged Sholapur where an encounter took place in which the allies routed the Bijapuris. Then Qutb Shah sent another army under Mir Zainal to conquer Nauvand Kakvi, old forts of Golconda which had passed in the possession of Bijapur. Bijapur was in turmoil at this time and so Qutb Shahi army captured Kakvi, Naulaki with Tilgur. Mir Zainal the Qutb Shahi commander advance further and in a fierce fight the Bijapuris were beaten back with great loss and the two

1. Fer. II, 45-46.
   Q.S. 216-17.
2. Bur. 507-21; B.S. 160; Fer. II, 143.
of Sagar and Yadgir were taken possession by Ibrahim Qutb Shah.

These successes enhanced Golkonda's power and the position of Vizam Shah became strong. He formed a secret alliance with Bijapur against Golkonda. The news of this alliance leaked out to Qutb Shah. Meantime Mir Zainal the Qutb Shah Commander wrote a letter to Vizam Shah pointing out the alliance between him and Bijapur would harm Namadnagar, and benefit Bijapur advanced the suggestion bore fruit and Vizam Shah was endowed to form an alliance with Ibrahim Qutb Shah against Bijapur. In pursuance of this alliance the allied armies attacked Bijapur and did much ravage. But their future advance was humpered by the cutting of the food supply of the allies of the Bijapur army. The allied army appealed to Ibrahim Qutb Shah to come and take the field as the Commander. But Ibrahim Qutb Shah died at this juncture in 1530, and the external quarrels in Golkonda forced a lull in the active participation of the Golkonda in the disputes.

The period of Ibrahim Qutb Shah highlights the stresses and strain in the Bijapur and Golkonda relations. Though the Golkonda ruler had started with a resolve to establish peace

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and good neighbourly relations with Bijapur and others neighbouring states, yet we find him ultimately drawn into the conflict by the force of circumstances and the velleity of his ambitious neighbour. The rulers of Bijapur Ibrahim Adil Shah and Ali Adil Shah, the father and the son. On several occasion Ibrahim Qutb Shah had took the way the price of peace and non-interference and therefore he had consequently to follow if the policy of involvement and war which could only safeguard his interest in which pool of Deccan politics.
CHAPTER - IV

A NEW PHASE - MOHAMMAD QULI QUTB SHAH AND
MOHAMMAD QUTB SHAH (1680 - 1686)

Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah ascended the throne of Golconda in 1680. On his accession the hostilities with Bijapur were continued. Murtaza Nizam Shah coveted Bijapur territory particularly Naldurg fort. The envoy sent by Nizam Shah with greeting and presents to Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah on his accession. Resulted in a fresh alliance between Golconda and Ahmadnagar for mutual cooperation and help both in aggression and in defence. Mohd. Quli Qutb also marched from his capital with a large army in 1681 towards Naldurg in Bijapur. The joint army besieged Naldurg put failed to storm and reduced it. The commander of the garrison was offered a large sum as a bribe to handover the fort to the besiegers but, true to his solve, the garrison commander refused these offers scornfully and continued to hold on. Mohd. Quli Qutb shah also arrived on the scene to encourage his troops. Mean while Ali Adil Shah died. and Bijapur affairs were thrown in the confusion, Mohd. Quli returned to Golconda leaving his small army under the commander of Mir Zainal Aslarabadi. Nizam Shah went to Bijapur and

   Q.S. 229.
   Fer. II. 172.

   Fer. 223-224. 172.
   Q.S. 223-224-33

   Q.S. 222-33.
   Fer. II, 33, 143.
inverted it but the fort was gallantly defended by Chand Bibi
The emt of Ali Adil Shah. By her cleverness and tact. She
organised stout defence and brought all the affairs of the
State to the path of loyalty and to the State of Bijapur. All attempts of the allied army failed to reduce
Bijapur and they returned to their territory. The new King of
Bijapur Ibrahim Adil Shah went in hot pursuit of the returning
armies and fought a battle with Golkonda's retreating army and
defeated it.

Now a new star appeared on the horizon of the Deccan.
It was the Mughal intervention. It affected the power equation
in the Deccan and confronted the Deccan States. It problem of
in great magnitude which there some time found difficult to
tackle with. The Deccan states had felt the reverberations
of the upheaval caused by the Mughal conquest of Northern
India by Babur and the expansion and consolidation of Akbar,
particularly the Mughal conquest of Gujarat in 1572 which
had closed connection with the Deccan States. Akbar was keenly
desirous of bringing about the unification of the whole
Indian subcontinent was looked upon the Deccan as the natural
outlet of his campaign and encounters. The perpetual enter

1. B.S. 153-80.
   Bur. 530-35.
   IV. II, 54, 172.
   Briggs III 145-55.
2. Bur. 583.
state conflicts in the Deccan and the fluid conditions obtaining in some states like Ahmadnagar on the death of Ibrahim Nizam Shah II, the interminable quarrels between Ahmadnagar and Bijapur on the question of Sholapur and the neglect of administrative efficiency and social and economic welfare of the people on the Deccan states provided the Mughals with the occasion and the opportunity to intermeddle in the Deccan affairs and launch aggression against them. The rulers of the Deccan States did not possess the vision and foresight to very the potched in respect of their neighbouring States and to keep up joint resistance of all the States against the invasions of mighty Empire.

Next to Gujarat the targets of Mughal Emperor Akbar were Khandesh and Ahmadnagar. The ruler of Khandesh Raja Ali Khan had accepted Akbar's suzerainty without any hesitation. So naturally Ahmadnagar was the next target of the Mughals, it was an turmoil and disturbed conditions. In Ahmadnagar, Ibrahim Nizam Shah was succeeded by Bahadur Shah, who was supported by Chand Bibi. This great lady was sister of Murtaza Nizam Shah and widow of Ali Adil Shah of Bijapur. She had returned to Ahmadnagar when chastise conditions prevailed in Bijapur. In 1595 Akbar ordered Prince Murad and Abdur Rahim

1. Feroz II, 288-90.
2. Feroz II, 33.
   History of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty, Sherwani, H.K., 265.
Khan Khan-i-Khanan to march against Ahmadnagar. The Emperor himself set out in that south ward direction to lend moral and material support to the expedition. The nobles of Ahmadnagar are resolved to fight under the leadership of Chand Bibi. She also sent urgent appeal to Deccan States to join hands. They accepted Chand Bibi appeal and sent there armies for her help. Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah and Adil Shah also sent their armies for help to Ahmadnagar. These armies reached to Waladurg, an important fort commanding a situation of the great importance in the Deccan. The Mughal army attacked Ahmadnagar and captured a large portion of the kingdom through the Mughals won victories, yet capital and other parts were still in the possession in the Chand Bibi; while a formidable force of Tilmang and Bijapur was at Waladurg and it did not allow to energy to advance. In the Mughal camp a controversy arose as to whether Waladurg should be reduced first or an army should be sent to capture Ahmadnagar fort immediately before help could come to the defending garrison.

Ahmadnagar now passed through uncertainty to the succession disputes on the death of Murtaza Nizam Shah. Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah and Adil Shah wanted to utilise this opportunity

1. Fird. II, 159-60.


3. Fird. 593.
   Fird. II 159-60.

4. Fird. 610-12
for making territorial gains. They were already in Naldurg with their armies from there they wanted to secretly some forts of Ahmadnagar. But good sense prevailed and instead of occupying Ahmadnagar territory, they divided to support Ahmadnagar in the face of the great danger from invading Mughal army. Raja Ali Khan sent a letter to Chand Bibi advising her to surrender all the forts to the Mughals except keeping one for herself and the Mughal were to strong to be faced. But Chand Bibi replied that the Deccani were strong enough to give a fitting reply. The allied army cut off the food supply of the Mughals while on the other hand the allied army also facing difficulties. So both sides wanted peace, therefore talks were held by a delegation from Ahmadnagar to Prince Murad and Abdur Rahim Khan-i Kahan. After much discussion it was decided that Berar was to be ceded to the Mughals and Prince Murad would not touch the old Nizam Shahi kingdom, Chand Bibi reluctantly accepted these terms. This demonstrated how a strong army could be met and defeated successfully, if the Deccan Sultanates put up joint defence. The Deccanis also proved their worth in war, tact and peace.

This alliance could not endure long because of succession disputed and partly politics in Ahmadnagar did great harm to the

solidarity of the Deccanies. In Ahmednagar there were two
groups one was headed by Mian Manju and the other by Chand
Bibi herself. Their relation had become bitter and at last
Chand Bibi invited her nephew for her help. Ibrahim Adil Shah
sent a strong gry to Ahmednagar to help Chand Bibi. Mian
Manju found himself in danger and therefore he invited
Prince Murad and Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan against Chand Bibi.
The Mughal Commanders were appointed by Akbar to make a dash
in the Deccan. But they had not achieved much success. Now
Mian Manju's invitation afforded them an opportunity to inter-
vene in the Deccan affairs. On this invitation Prince Murad
and Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan entered into Ahmednagar
territory. Chand Bibi sent urgent message to Bijapur and
Golkonda for help against the Mughals. Ibrahim Adil Shah sent
Subad Khan and Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah sent Mehdi Quli Sultan
with a strong force to fight the common enemy from the north.
The allied armies marched towards Barar against the Mughals
and met with the invaders at the Songhal of Godavery in 1597 A.D.
A hotly contested battle was fought in which Deccanies
defeated the Mughals killing some prominent nobles such as
2 Raja Ali Khan of Khambesh and Raja Ajmanath Singh. This was
the great victory but the allies could not put together and

2. Per. II, 132-34.
Abul Fazl, Akbarname, E.S. Dowson, VI, 96,
Brier, III, 305.
Bijapuri and Golkonda commanders became hostile to each other. Golkonda commander left the camp in disgust the Bijapuri Commander found himself helpless and he too returned home.

The Mughals thus found the defense very weak and they began to capture the various forts of Ahmadnagar one by one. Meanwhile the differences also developed between Prince Murad and Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan in the Mughal camp. This rift in the Mughal camp hampered the progress of the Mughal army.

Then the matter was reported to Akbar, he transferred Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan and appointed Abul Fazl in his place. But Prince Murad died 1599, at the expedition ran into the difficulties. Akbar appointed Prince Danyal as the viceroy, in the Deccan with Abdur Rahim Khan-i Khanan. They reached in the Deccan with a huge and strong force and started to shell the strong fort of Ahmadnagar. The Nizam Shahi army could not withstand the Mughals onslaught. And Nizam Shah with his family was imprisoned and sent to Akbar at the Mughal court. Chand Bibi also lost her life. This was shame to all the Deccani states. And able an intrapid Nizam Shahi noble Malik Amber, the Abyssinian to retrieve the lost prestige of Ahmadnagar and the Nizam Shahi dynasty. He placed

   Mabli, Culi Cutch Shah, Sharvani, H.K, 92.

2. *Abul Fazl, Akbarname, E & D. VI, 126.
   **Fur., II. IV3, Briggs, III, 330.

Shah Ali's son Nuruzza on the throne of Ahmednagar at Parand 1
1603 and started to challenging the Mughal Empire, he declared
with the fall of Ahmednagar fort was not the fall of the
Nizam Shahi kingdom and that the struggle would go on, how-
ever formidable to the odds, he fought a battle on the bank
of Mandua and defeated the Mughals. And made one great Mughal
general Ali Mardan Khan a captive. Then this reverse was
reported to Akbar, he was enraged, and began to think serious-
ly as to how they could suppress the Deccan States.

Akbar came to the conclusion that Military might
coupled with diplomacy and craftiness put lead to successful
results. So he thought of sewing the seeds of disunion among
the Deccanis. He wanted to separate Golconda and Bijapur from
the side of Ahmednagar. For he sent an envoy to Nizam Shah
and advised him to free himself from the hold of Malik Ambar
with the help of the Mughals. Then he sent an envoy to Bijapur
with a marriage proposal to wed Sultana Begum daughter of
Ibrahim Adil Shah with Prince Danyia. Adil Shah accepted it
and the marriage was solemnized in 1604 with great pomp and
ceremonies. In this way Bijapur was wonover and was looked
with suspicion by Malik Ambar and the ruler of Golconda. Thus
isolated Malik Ambar and was defeated at Mandar. But he was

1. Akhi, Culi Culi Shah, Sherwani, H.K. 95-6, Parand - this
was the Taluka of Osmanabad district in Maharashtra State.
2. Nasirul Hiss, I, 774.
3. Far, II, 166; R.K. 265-67;
Akhi, Culi Culi Shah, Sherwani, H.K. 97.
a man of strong will, shrewdness and bravery. He silently
imprisoned Murtusa Miskin Shah in Parenda fort. Akbar too
had to face his misfortune. Prince Daiya had died and Prince
Salim had revolted against Akbar. This shook weakened and
saddened Akbar and he died in 1605 A.D.

Jahangir continued his father's policy in the Deccan.
On his accession Jahangir also faced certain trouble, the
rebellion of the son Khursro and the slackening of the Mughal
authority in the Deccan gave an opportunity to Malik Ambar
to receive many Ahmadnagar's forts from the Mughals. Jahangir
sent Prince Perwej with Raja Man Singh with a large army to
the Deccan. Malik Ambar felt insecure and sent urgent
messages to Bijapur and Golconda for help, and warned them
of the great danger from the Mughals. Both these States were
now alarmed and they sent adequate help for Malik Ambar.
Jahangir was also determined to take a stiff line of action
against the Deccani Kingdoms. Malik Ambar pressed Bijapur
and Golconda for more help and they responded favourably.
The Mughals had their own difficulties in campaigning the

1. Ibn. II, 185; E.S. 266-67; Nabi, Cali Cuth Shah, Sherwani
   H.K., 97.
   Briggs III, 519.
   Nasir - Headquarters of a Tehsil, Naser district.
   Ibn. 164. It is not true that Malik Ambar after putting
   Murtusa in confinement and declared to the independence.
5. Jahangird, Jahangir, Nusrul Khan, 33-35; E.S. 263-66;
   Ph. P.C.I.T. 1, 273-74.
Deccan against the Guerilla tactics organised by Malik Ambar. The Mughal suffered a reverse when Malik Ambar captured the Ahmadnagar fort from the Mughals.

During the period 1608-1622 the Mughal pressure was not so strong in the Deccan, thanks to the remarkable organising capacity, formidable defence and military genius shown by Malik Ambar and the support he won from Bijapur and Golkonda. But the next ruler of Golkonda Sultan Mohd Qutb Shah who succeeded his father Sultan Mohd. Quli Qutb Shah 1612 was a weak ruler. Venkatta II the ruler of Penun Konda, realizing the weakness of Qutb Shah attacked Golkonda but he had to retreat. This invasion as his failure exposed the hollowness of the power of Venkatta II, Ibrahim Adil Shah attacked Penun Konda and conquered Kurnort 1621. Seeing this, Mohd. Qutb Shah also wanted to conquer some part of Penun Konda but Adil Shah, intervened and for fear of Adil Shah's opposition. Mohd. Qutb Shah desisted himself upon attacking Penun Konda because he was keen to maintain good relations with Bijapur. Both Bijapur and Golkonda were interested in maintaining cordial and peaceful relations.

3. The Kingdom of Golkonda - Moreland, 16.
5. B.S. 278.
between them so that they could successfully check the Mughal advance towards the South. Malik Ambar's successes against the Mughal had reassured both Golconda and Bijapur of the value and utility of putting up joint defence against the mighty Mughal Empire.

Emperor Jahangir had felt the loss of Ahmadnagar very much and wanted to recover it; he appointed Abdullah Khan to attack Ahmadnagar. Malik Ambar defended it stoutly with the support of Bijapur and Golconda. After Abdullah Khan's failure, Jahangir appointed Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan to the south. The latter reached Ahmadnagar and by diplomatic manoeuvring won over the Adil Shah II of Bijapur from the coalition of the Deccani rulers. Then Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan attacked Ahmadnagar and routed Malik Ambar and razed the beautiful city Kirkee to the ground. But Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan was suspected of complicity with Malik Ambar and was supposed to have being corrupted by Deccan gold and the allegation was that he did not take his arms to the logical end. Khan-i-Khanan was suspended and Prince Khurram was appointed commander of the Deccan. Prince Khurram reached the Deccan and sent two envoys to Bijapur and Golconda inviting them to allied themselves to

   Tuljakesh-Jahangiri, I, 314.
   History of Jahangir, Beni Prasad, 267.
   Shahienan of Kahi, Saksena, B.P., 21.
the Mughals against Malik Ambar, promising that after the victory over Ahmadnagar, the Mughals would cede all those forts to them which were captured by Malik Ambar from their territories. The offer was accepted by both Bijapur and Golkonda, then Shahjahan attacked and besieged Ahmadnagar's fort. Malik Ambar, finding along his weak position, left the fort which was later occupied by the Mughals. This was a great diplomatic and military victory of the Mughals in the Deccan. In 1619 Jahangir fell ill and went to Kashmir for change of climate. Malik Ambar soon formed an alliance with Bijapur and Golkonda. Malik Ambar collected a large force and attacked Ahmadnagar. From all sides and compelled the Mughals to surrender the fort. After capturing the Ahmadnagar Malik Ambar captured Balepur and Berar and advanced as far as Burhanpur as besieged it. Jahangir again sent Shahjahan to the Deccan, the later crossed the Nerbada and soon reached Burhanpur. The Deccani rulers hearing of this news raised the siege and retreated to their territories. Shahjahan recovered all those forts which were lately been captured by

3. Iqbalnamah, 186.
Malik Ambar. Now Malik Ambar made a proposal to Shahjahan who accepted the Mughal suzerainty. Shahjahan too was anxious for peace before the beginning of the rainy season. At last a peace treaty was signed but the treaty did not accord equality of status to the Deccan States in comparison with the Mughal Empire, it provided for some sort of indemnity to be imposed on each Deccani State, providing that Golkonda would pay twenty lakhs, Bijapur eighteen lakhs, Ahmadnagar twelve lakhs of rupees to be paid the Mughals. Prince Khurram sent Abdullah Khan Geleni to collect from Bijapur. Raja Bikramjit to Ahmadnagar to realise its share from Ahmadnagar and Qazi Abdul Aziz to receive its share from Golkonda. But in the meantime the situation took a new turn as Shahjahan revolted against his father and moved towards the North. Mohd. Qutb Shah, the lover of peace died in 1626. With his death phase of love of peace ended and from the next reign Abdullah Qutb Shah who entered upon a significant period of Bijapur and Golkonda relation vis-a-vis the Mughal Empire.

1. Iqbalnamah, 182.
2. Iqbalnamah, 183.
   History of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty, Shervani, H.K. 392.
   Amal-i Salih, I, 177.
CHAPTER V.

FROM INDEPENDENCE TO THE STAGE OF VASSALAGE

ABDULLAH QUTB SHAH AND ABUL HASAN QUTB SHAH

VIS-A-VIS—BILAFUR AND THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1626-1687)

Abdullah Qutb Shah succeeded his father Mohammad Qutb Shah in 1626 A.D. when he was hardly a boy of twelve years. He was a lover of peace and established amity and goodwill. In his relations with the neighbouring kingdoms. He carried on his father's policy of seeking coordination between all the Deccani states, in the face of great threat from the North. In fact cooperation and friendship and joint efforts were forced upon the Deccan Sultanates in this period since they were faced with a life and death struggle with the growing Mughal power in the south. And the era of peace and friendship had taken the place of diplomacy and inter-state wars that were the normal feature of the Deccan policy before the Mughal advanced at the beginning of the 17th century, which caused their consciousness for self survival and self rule that was threatened by the Mughals in their southern advance. On various occasions these Deccan states became all the more ready to play into the hands of the Mughal diplomat s who exploited and isolated them and they fell easy prey to the machinations of the Mughal generals who occupied lands whenever there was disunity among the Deccan powers. On the succession of

Abdullah to the Kingdom of Golconda, Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur sent a special envoy Abul Hasan with a letter of felicitation and costly presents to Golconda. Murtaza Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar did the same through and via Mir Zafar, Prince Khurram, the Mughal Governor in the Deccan also did likewise. Bijapur and Golconda the traditional enemies in the Deccan had come closer to each other because of the necessities of the time. Ibrahim Adil Shah II, the question of the succession to Ibrahim Adil Shah II when he was on his death bed demonstrates the point clearly. When he was asked as to his successor he uttered the name of Dayan-ul-Mulk but changed in a moment thinking that since Dayan-ul-Mulk had passed sometimes as the guest of Golconda. Abdullah Qutb shah would utilise this connection to make interference into the internal policies of Bijapur in order to raise his influence at the Adil Shah court. Therefore Ibrahim Adil Shah II changed his mind and appointed Prince Muhammad as his successor. This shows the suspicion which the rulers of Golconda and Bijapur harboured about each other. But they were also compelled to seek each other cooperation. Emperor Shah Jahan congratulated Abdullah Qutb Shah through his special

1. Nadiqa 31-32.

   Nadiqa 31-32 evidently not only the Mughal Emperor, but also his vicerey in the Deccan had his envoys at the Qutb Shah and Adil Shah court.
envoy Afsal Khan, Abdullah Qutb Shah was keen to maintain peace and cooperation to Bijapur and therefore, he also sent greeting to the new ruler, though he was not happy with the choice of Muhammad Adil Shah to be the ruler of Bijapur.

Murtaza Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar was also not satisfied with Mohd. Adil Shah because he wanted that Prince Danish brother of Mohammad Adil Shah should have been crowning. Murtaza Nizam Shah now attacked Bijapur and defeated his forces.

Qutb Shah kept aloof in this fight. Golconda kept and Bijapur had formed an alliance to oppose the Mughals. Emperor Shah Jahan did not like this alliance and attempted a make to break into it. He sent a large army under Asaf Khan against Bijapur. Adil Shah was alarmed and he sent his envoy Rizqullah to Asaf Khan to seek the pardon of the Emperor and agreed to pay an indemnity. But the Mughal army had already arrived in the Deccan and laid siege to Kandhar under Nasir Khan.

Qutb Shah was also very much concerned at this and he dispatched Adam Khan Habshi Amul-Mulk Allah Quli Turk to Sesalas to guard the frontier but the Mughals maintained friendly relations. The governor of Orrissa Baqar Khan Semi occupied

1. Dār-ul Kāmil, Muhammad Adil Shah, Fazūnī Astarbadī, 293 B.  
   History of Shahi Jahan of Delhi, R. P. Saksena, 162.


   Gauri, 1943.  
   History of Shah Jahan of Delhi, Saksena, R.P. 121.

4. Iskandar, I, 104.
the fort of Mansurgarh in December 1630 and defeated further 
Golkonda forces sent against him and wanted to penetrated 
in the Qutb Shah dynasty but Abdullah brought up to 
Shahjahan who ordered Baqsar Khan to returned his territory. 
Bijapur had ultimately to accept Mughal sovereignty and paid 
a large indemnity to the Mughal Emperor. After accepting 
the state of vassalage from Bijapur, Shahjahan now turned 
towards Golkonda and Ali Beg the Mughal commander reached 
Hyderabad in 1631 in compliance of the imperial orders and 
presented a memorandum to Qutb Shah demanding a large sum of 
money. Qutb Shah reluctantly accepted the demand in order to 
avoid war. But a bad tradition was set by the imperial orders 
by demanding more and more money so often from the Deccan.

Now Shahjahan's attention was diverted 
by Northern rebellion and Bijapur and Golkonda heaved a sigh 
of relief. Shahjahan was displeased by this disobedient 
gestures on the part of Deccan State. He sent Mahabat Khan 
against Bijapur and so Mohammad Adil Shah sent a request to 
Abdullah Qutb Shah of Golkonda for help. Shahjahan sent

1. Nadia'at, ff. 337b-29. 
Labori, I, 339-34. 
History of Shahjahan of Delhi, Saksena, B.P. 171. 
Gasvini, ff. 806-7.

2. Nadia'at, 333b. 
History of Shahjahan of Delhi, Saksena, B.P. 171.

3. Nadia'at, 334b.

4. Nadia'at, f. 278. 
History of Shahjahan of Delhi, Saksena, B.P. 172.
another army under Jujhar Singh against Golkonda. To over-
mance the Deccan States Shahjahan himself moved from Delhi to
Deccan in 1636. The Emperor sent two imperial orders, one
to Mohammad Adil Shah and another to Abdullah Qutb Shah and
reprimanded them on their hostile attitude and urging on
them to come to the path of obedience loyalty and compliance
the imperial orders. The language used in the formans to both
the Deccan ruler was in the nature of admonitions from the
overlord to the vassals. To Adil Shah the Farman alleged
that he had occupied Nizam Shahi territory by the use of
force and also did not pay the promised Mughal peshkash.
In the second Farman addressed to Abdullah Qutb Shah it was
written in that though the Emperor had paid him due regard
and treated him kindly but the latter did not reciprocate
the kind gestures of the Emperor, instead he paid too much
respect to Shah of Persia in comparison with the Mughal
Emperor, and that he had declared the Shia faith as the
State religion under influence of the Persians and ignored
the Sunni sect which was the faith of the Mughal Emperor.
He had included the name of Shah of Persia in the Friday
khutba, thereby signifying homage to the Shah of Persia as
a suzerain of Qutb Shahi kingdom. The areas of Peshkash
devoted in the forms of jewels of the finest quality
Elephants of good breed such as Dak Samunder and other
presents which should reach the Emperor very soon. In the
end of Farman categorically stated that, in the case of the
Qutb Shah adopting a rebellious attitude, he should be
reproved to face the consequences for which he alone would be responsible. In the meantime Nizam Shah of Ahmadnagar threw off the Mughal allegiance by the persuasions and efforts of Shahji, the Maratha chief in 1635 and recovered a number of forts from the Mughals. Adil Shah of Bijapur too promised Nizam Shah to provide adequate help against the Mughals. Shahjahan was not unaware of all this and sent an army into the Deccan which captured all the forts recently aquired by Ahmadnagar. Shahjahan sent a letter to Adil Shah admonishing him for his offer a help to rebellious Nizam Shah. Adil Shah at once sent Abul Hasan as the envoy to the Emperor with costly presents and a famous treaty was concluded in 1636 in the following measure clauses. In the same year Shahjahan sent a letter to Abdullah Qutb Shah containing some condition to Abdullah Qutb Shah who was incorporated in the famous Injavatnamah ... or Ahadnamah contrasted between Golconda and Mughal ruler it ran as follows.

By this Ahadnamah Abdullah became a vassal chief under the Mughal Emperor and the latter became the arbiter of the disputes among the Deccan rulers. Another important

1. Lakhiri, II, 199-23.  
condition was that Qutb Shah consider the Mughal enemies as his enemies and the Emperor's friends as his friends and even it Adil Shah was to attack his dominion, he would solicit the support of the Mughal viceroy in the Deccan to drive him out.

In this way the Golkonda, Bijapur relations became dependent on the Mughals solicitation. And due it dealings were subjected to the overall control of the Mughal Emperor.

**Karnataka Problem in the Light of Tabrasi's Golkonda Letters (1633-55):**

Karnataka is an important territory in the south along the western coast which has always coveted the greed of its neighbours. On account of its productive soil and strategic importance, both Bijapur and Golkonda, were eager to conquer and annex it. Of the contemporary sources, Tabrasi's letters throw abundant light on the historical, strategic and topographical details of the region, and the modes and the machination of the three powers, Bijapur, Golkonda and the Mughal Empire in the Karnataka. This is the unique collection, highlighting an important phase of the Golkonda-Bijapur relations as well as Mughals' intervention and to fish in the troubled waters, and formed the

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2. Tabrasi - 4a-b, 5a-b, 17 a-b, 20a-b, 21 a-b.
whole affairs to their advantage. With the bone of contention between the two (Bijapur and Golconda).

The work is undated, but is contemporary with the period which it refers to in detail. The author (Tabrez) Nasirul Mulk Haji Abdul Ali popularly known as Tabrez, migrated from Tabres of Persia. He was an eye witness to the happening described in the collection of letters, sent by or to Abdullah Qutb Shah, Abul Hasan Qutb Shah and some nobles of Golconda court. Karnataka was a territory which was a remnant of former Vijayanagar Empire. It was ruled by the Nayaks and Zamindars who were not powerful enough. Bijapur and Golconda formed an alliance to reduce the Karnataka to submission and to divide the territory in the proportion of $2/3$ and $1/3$ respectively.

Abdullah Qutb Shah had entered into a defensive and offensive alliance with Mughal Emperor Shahjahan by virtue of the famous treaty (Ahamnawab) in 1636. Therefore, he was emboldened to foul and trouble on the issue of Jinji and Tanjore subsequent to the progress of the arms of the allies in the Karnataka territory. Thereupon Ali Shah sent

1. Tabrez, 5 a-b, 6 a-b, 7a.
2. Tabrez, 19 a-b, 21 a-b.
3. Tabrez, 23 a-b, 29 a-b.
Musafiruddin Khan Mahmud Khan-i Khanaa against Golconda with a view to creating diversion. Abdullah Qutb Shah appealed to Shahjahan for help. Shahjahan deputed Hakim Muhammad Husain to visit Bijapur and tried to compose ostensibly this dispute. But the mission failed and Adil Shah sent Mustafa Khan to Jinni to capture it, but later found his position weak against wily Mir Jumla. On the other hand, Abdullah Qutb Shah appealed to the Mughal Emperor to intervene and helped in the terms of the treaty of 1639. The Emperor failed to honour his pledge because he was interested keeping in conflict among the allies and capitalise on the strife. Then, both the rulers of Bijapur and Golconda determined to fight jointly and advanced towards Jinni. But meanwhile Mustafa Khan died, it again aroused the greed of Mir Jumla. Now Malik Rajan was deputed to contest with Mir Jumla. He reduced part of the region surrounding Jinni fort. Abdullah Qutb Shah again invoked the terms of the treaty of 1636, and complained that Adil Shah wished to covet more than 2/3 of the Karnata. When no response came from Shahjahan, he again sent a pathetic letter to appeal to Shahjahan to intervene in the Doonan. He further

1. Tabresi, 5 a-b, 7a-b, 8a-b, 25 a-b, 153 a-b.
2. Tabresi, 72b, 73 a-b, 74 a-b.
3. Tabresi, 79 a-b.
4. Tabresi, 67 a-b, 68 a-b, 9 a-b, 7a-b, 25 a-b.
complained that Adil Shah had invited the Hindu Nayaks and Zamindars against Golkonda. Despite the order of the Emperor, the ruler of Bijapur made further gains in Bijapur including the capture of Vellore. On his part Adil Shah levelled allegations against Golkonda and accused Mir Jumla of conquering Gandikota without the Emperor's permission, and that he was behaving like a rebel. We find a further letter of Abdullah Qutb Shah rejecting the allegations of Adil Shah.

This recriminatory correspondence was addressed by Golkonda and Bijapur to the Mughal Emperor, in which these two Deccan States made allegations against each other. These allegations and counter allegations against each other exposed their plans, resources, strategy and weakness to the Mughal Emperor, and he had come to know of their forces and activities and to use all this in his favour. Another significant development was the desertion of Mir Jumla from Golkonda to Mughal court, and the confirmation of Karnataka as the Jagir by the order of Mughal Emperor. The protest of Qutb Shah to retain Karnataka was turned down by the Emperor on the plea that Mir Jumla had entered Mughal service and the conquest of Karnataka due to Mir Jumla. Therefore, it legitimately belonged to him.

1. Tabrez, 19a-b, 19a-b, 21a-b.
2. Tabrez, 69a-b, 70a-b, 71a-b, 72a-b, 73a-b, 74a-b, 75a-b, 76a-b, 143a-b, 144a-b, 145a-b, 146a-b.
The letters throw important side lights on the Mughal relations with Bijapur and Golconda, as well as the relations of these states inter. The policies, plans, strategy and diplomatic and military weaknesses of these two states were also exposed. The Mughal diplomatic moves and manoeuvre vis-a-vis the Deccan states and the Mughal policies to keep alive tension and conflict in the Deccan as well as their attempt to seduce the Deccan generals into their services are amply manifested. This collection fills the gaps in our essential information about the Deccan policy of the Mughals as well as the political and military situation in the Deccan and the diplomatic overtures of the Deccan States. Hence, the value and utility of this unique collection of letters is great indeed.

New Dimensions to Bijapur-Golkonda Relations vis-a-vis the Mughal Empire - The Maratha Factor

In 1656 Shahjahan fell ill and a hotly contested succession dispute impaired the peacefull atmosphere of the Mughal Empire. The war of succession among the sons of Shah Jahan was fierce and formidable. Aurangzeb who was the viceroy, of the Deccan advanced towards the North and tried his fortunes in the battle of Dharmatt, Smugarh and Deoral and emerged victorious as the Emperor of Hindustan in 1658.

In his reign the Maratha factor became potential and important is the arena of the war and politics in the Deccan. He constantly disturbed the Deccan States particularly the Bijapur and the Mughal Empire, and stricterror of his powers, Guerilla tactics and diplomatic feats. His plunder in the Adil Shahi Kingdom and murder of Afsal Khan, his night attack on the camp of Shaista Khan, the Mughal commander in the Deccan and Maternal uncle of Aurangzeb 1663 and the two of Surat had worn out Aurangzeb and he determined to deal with the Maratha problem effectively.

Shivaji had risen at the expence of mainly the Bijapur kingdom. So Aurangzeb wrote to Adil Shah to help him in suppressing the Marathas, Adil Shah agreed. So both the armies, the Mughals under the Diler Khan and Bijapuri under Khwas Khan moved to give battle to Shivaji and they succeeded and defeated Shivaji. Other neighbouring State had also became enemies of Shivaji. So he wrote a letter to Mughal commander Mirza Jai Singh promising him to render help to the Mughals in establishing the Mughal hold over the whole of the Deccan. Mirza Raja Jai Singh welcomed the suggestion as the Mughals were keen to put an end to Shivaji’s activities

1. R.S. 34-98.
2. R.S. 399-402.
and so a treaty was entered into by which Shivaji surrendered many of his forts and promised to render the help Mughal against the Bijapur. This treaty was known by the name of Purandar. Thereafter Shivaji and Jai Singh started to plunder the border of Bijapur. Adil Shah was alarmed and convened a meeting of his Minister about the course of he should take. The minister suggested to him to deal firstly with Jai Singh and secondly with Shivaji. Therefore Qutb Shah of Golkonda wrote a letter to Adil Shah emphasizing the bounds of friendship between the two and assuring him of his help against Jai Singh. Adil Shah welcomed the idea and wrote that he had already sent armies against the enemies and that he was confident of victory. When Abdullah Qutb Shah received this letter known as Ikhlasnamah from Adil Shah piece of twelve thousands selected troops with 40,000 other soldiers to help Adil Shah. The command of his army was given to Neknam Khan. Neknam Khan moved swifts marches and soon reached on the border of Bijapur. Adil Shah sent Abdul Muhammad to receive and bring him to the capital with respect. Both armies (Bijapur and Golkonda) came in the presence of Ali Adil Shah. Ali Adil Shah inspected and bestowed ikhlas.

1. B.S. 409-4.
2. B.S. 404-12.
3. B.S. 412-12.
4. B.S. 412.
5. B.S. 413-14.
and other honours on Nekma Khan and Qutb Shahi army and wished them to fight very bravely against the enemy. This large army reached the battle field. Mirza Raj Jai Singh could not face this army and at last being helpless, fled from the field. But again the whole situation took a new turn with the death of Adil Shah. After Adil Shah, his son Sikander Adil Shah ascended the throne at the age of five. In the absence of an efficient ruler, the nobles started a struggle for power among themselves. Abdul Karim Khan became very powerful. But after coming to the power, the confusion prevailed in the Adil Shah kingdom and the nobles became jealous of Abdul Karim. Realising this, Abdul Karim Khan sent a petition to Diler Khan, the Mughal commander in the Deccan for his help. At this time Abdullah Qutb Shah died.

The Last Phase - Abul Hasan Qutb Shah (1672-87):

Abul Hasan Qutb Shah succeeded his father Abdullah Qutb Shah in 1672. The kingdom of Golkonda had already become a protected state in subsidiary alliance with the Imperial Mughal by virtue of the Inayatnawab in 1636. Despite this fact Abul Hasan Qutb Shah evaded the terms of the Inayatnawab and was led by cupidity to grab as much of Karnataka from

1. R.S. 414.
2. R.S. 426-27.
Bijapur as he could possibly do because the house of Bijapur was in disorder since the ruler Sikandar Adil Shah was in infant and the nobles were those serving their own selfishness.

On the suggestion of Madina the Prime Minister of Golkonda, Abul Hasan Qutb Shah invited Shivaji to his kingdom and gave his royal reception. Abul Hasan agreed to pay Shivaji a subsidy, three hundred Rupees per day if Shivaji would capture some parts of Karnataka from Bijapuri hands and make them over to Golkonda. Shivaji stayed in Hyderabad for one month. Starting from there he captured some important Bijapuri forts but gave none to Golkonda.

As already referred to the throne of Bijapur was adorned by an infant Sikandar Adil Shah to the death of his father Ali Adil Shah and the nobles were struggling for power until one of them Abdul Karim became very powerful. Abdul Karim Khan sent a petition to Diler Khan the Mughal commander in the Deccan and appealed to him for his support because Abdul Karim was more interested in his personal aggrandisement than the integrity of the Bijapur State. Realising the weak position of Bijapur with the Mughals and the Marathas

1. Aiyasagar, pp. 103-6.
2. B.S. 461-52.
advanced from the other side. The Maratha advance quickened the pace of the Mughal encroachments though, Diler Khan promised support to Abdul Karim and the latter swore to suppress the rising power of Shivaji. Diler Khan considered Abdul Karim a suitable instrument to serve the Mughal cause and requested the Emperor, address a letter. And other Bijapuri noble Syed Musarrat Khan, the commander of Adoni fort knew the selfish motive of Abdul Karim and was anxious to reduce his power other nobles were also interested to further than selfish end and the Mughals and Shivaji were not slack to turn the situation in their favour.

In these adverse circumstances Musarrat Khan, a Bijapuri noble who was a staunch and loyal supporter of Sikandar Adil Shah, the infant King appealed to Abul Hasan Qutb Shah for his interference to save Bijapur Kingdom. Abul Hasan was moved by the appeal and convened a meeting of his nobles. The meeting decided that in view of the friendly relations between Bijapur and Golconda, the interference on the part of Abul Hasan Qutb Shah would be justified. Abul Hasan wrote a letter to Abdul Karim to come to Golconda. The latter had consolidated his authority in Bijapur, so he left the affairs of the State in the hand of Jamshid Khan and himself came to meet Qutb Shah. Abul Hasan received him with honour, and

1. R.S. 452.
2. R.S. 462-63.
3. R.S. 453.
warned him of the dangers and enemies of Golkonda who had
surrounded the kingdom and had already grabbed its territory.
Abul Hasan advised not to try to gain his personal ends, and
told him to hand over power to Masood Khan and support him
in his dedicated efforts to save Bijapur from utter ruin.
Abdul Karim stated that the troops were in arrears of pay to
the extent of 60,000 Rupees and he short of funds to make them
the payment. He needs this money immediately in order to
handover the various forts to Masood Khan. Abul Hasan Qutb
Shah promised to pay the money on condition that Abdul
Karim would try to negotiate an alliance between Qutb Shah
and Deleer Khan the viceroy in the Deccan because Abdul Karim
was on friendly relations with the latter. In this way,
friendship was formed between Masood Khan and Abdul Karim,
but all of sudden Abdul Karim fell ill at Heerapur and died.
His deputy, Jamshid Khan wrote a letter to Masood Khan asking
him to get the promised sum from Golkonda and pay it to him,
or else he should be prepared for a fight. Masood Khan did
not fight. Jamshid Khan and he demanded the promised 60,000
Rupees from Abul Hasan which the latter refused saying that he
had promised to pay the sum to Abdul Karim who had already
died.

1. R.S. 453-54.
2. R.S. 454-55.
3. R.S. 455-57.
4. R.S. 457.
The attempts of Abul Hasan to compose the disputes among the Bijapuri nobles, particularly between Masud Khan and Abdul Karim and to assist Bijapuris by military contingent was negotiated by the Mughal viceroy, Diler Khan who induced Masud Khan to enter into an agreement with him to the effect that the latter would be totally loyal to the Mughal Emperor and have no relations with Shivaji and recapture the Adil Shahi districts from the Marathas. But the initiative taken by Abul Hasan showed that despite the Inayatnama (or the Deed of Submission of 1635) during Shah Jahan's reign and the Ta'ahhud or "Agreement" of 4th May 1674 between Aurangzeb and Abul Hasan by which the latter had handed over all independent authority to the Mughal Emperor, the government of Hyderabad had regained its former status and was determined to salvage the sinking fleet of its old ally, friend and neighbour, Bijapur as against the Northern Mughal intruders.

Bijapur had become a Mughal protectorate. The Emperor went out of his way to confer the title of King on Sikander and to have his name read in the Friday Khutba and to retain it on gold and silver coins of the Kingdom.

1. R.S. 456-57.
R.S. 457.
M.L. 411-12.
But the situation suddenly changed when Aurangzeb left Ameer for the Deccan on 20 September 1679 reaching Amadnagar on 13 November 1682. The Maratha depredations and the asylum given by Sambhaji to Prince Akbar, Aurangzeb's fourth son, who was proclaimed Emperor by the Maratha necessitated all this.

The flight of the Emperor was directed towards the Marathas but Bijapur and Golconda provoked him into action against them. Bijapur tried to form an alliance with Golconda to combat the Mughals. In July, 1684 Shah Hazrat Qadiri was sent to Heiderabad for consultation and then sent by Sikandar Adil Shah to Masud Khan at Adoni. The latter tried to maintain and strengthen the old ties with Qutb Shahi state.

Aurangzeb was greatly displeased with Bijapur and sent orders to Abul Hasan not to help Bijapur and break off all relations with that state. He was also ordered to hand over the parganas of Ramgir and Sera occupied by Golconda but which were part of the Mughal Sarker of Nander.

Aurangzeb considered Bijapur as a shield to Golconda and so he decided to eliminate it first. Bijapur was invested 3 by Prince Ameer on 14 June 1685. Abul Hasan was keen to send

   M.L. 411-12.
2. B.S. 532
   M.L. 419.
3. B.S. 534-40
   M.A. 279.
a large army to Bijapur but the road was blocked by the
Mughal general, Behramand Khan Abul Hasan sent communications
to send an army of 40,000 horse under Khalilullah Khan and
wished Sambhaji to send reinforcements to Bijapur. Arrangzeb
intercepted this communication. Prince Muazzam was sent with
Khavi Jahan, Safdar Khan, Itiqad Khan, Abdullah Khan Barha,
Raja Man Singh and others at the head of 35,000 horse to
overrun Tilang. Then followed the two Battles of Malkher
and the siege and fall of Golkonda and the Qutb Shahi
dynasty on 21 September 1687. The story of Golkonda-Bijapur
relations ends there.

   M.L. 418.
   Memooni, III, 32.
CHAPTER - VI

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

Golkonda, Bijapur relations in the field of social and cultural development were quite remarkable. The paucity of materials bearing on the aspect in the chronicles of this period does not help in knowing the details and arriving at definite conclusions but there are stray and casual references which throw certain side light on these aspects. There were two important routes connecting Golkonda with Bijapur. The road from Hyderabad to Bijapur and thence to Goa followed the road to Bidar and then went due west as far as Sholapur. From Sholapur it took a turn to the south toward Bijapur.

The road link starting from Hyderabad it passed through Golkonda Khanapur, Kovilkonda, Jatpol and Alampur on the Krishna which formed the frontier between the Qutb Shahi and the Adil Shahi kingdoms. The road then led to Karnul and Ramanna Kota gold mines which happened to be in the Adil Shahi territory.

The Qutb Shahi kingdom was a land of comparative prosperity. In the early 17th century it was not only self sufficient in the cultivation of the food crops but it was an exporting country which sent its surplus produce to the neighbouring lands of south India.

1. Tavemier, 143-44.
2. Tavemier, 339.
The southern part of the Adil Shahi Kingdom was famous for the produce of such commodities as cardamum and pepper which were sent to all neighbouring kingdoms as well as foreign lands. In these times of constant warfare arms and weapons, both defensive and offensive were in great demand in the Deccan States. The Adil Shahi kingdom had specialised in the manufacture of Bows, Arrows and coats of mail. Arms were also sent out of Golkonda, the principality of Siddi Jauhar in other regions. In normal times during friendly relations Bijapur supplied certain specialised arms to Golkonda.

Horses and weapons of musketry from Golkonda were highly valued in Bijapur.

In social relations the frequent marriages between the royal houses of Bijapur and Golkonda kingdoms as well as among the social elite in the two kingdoms were quite common. They produced bonds of kinship, unity and solidarity between the two states.

The shia faith was common between the two states, it had been the state religion both in Bijapur and Golkonda and all efforts were made to spread it and developed common links among the Deccan states on that basis.

1. Tavernier, 207. Foster, English Factories 1661-64, p. 169.
2. Selected Wazis of the Deccan, 7-8.
5. B.S. 18; Q.3. 47.
The link with Persia established by Bijapur and Golkonda also emphasis the religious connection on the basis of the shia faith. The name of the State of Persia read not in the Friday khutba in both Bijapur and Golkonda was aims that securing a religious unity among the followers of the shia faith.

The exchanges of ulema and Muitahidin among Persia, Bijapur and Golkonda were directed to promote the interest of the Shia faith for which the Shah was considered as the leader.

Exchanges of books and scholars also find mentioned in the contemporary literature of both Bijapur and Golkonda. Abdullah Qutb Shah had sent a manuscript to Adil Shah which points out the to literary exchanges.

The Telgu language was spoken and written in the Qutb Shahi state as well as in a part of the Bijapur state. There must have been frequent linguistic and literary connection between the two kingdoms.

The Dakhani urdu or proto urdu was born and developed in Hyderabad as well as in parts of Golkonda and Bijapur states.

In the field of literature of Persian, Dakhani Urdu and Telgu both the states made a deep mark on the development of

1. External Relations of Bijapur Kingdom, Nayeem 56-66.
these languages and the frequent exchanges of poets, scholars and men of letters, both Bijapur and Golkonda were equal sharer of glory and literary excellence.

Among the literary forms Qasida and Marthia figured prominently in the Persian and the proto Urdu composition in the both Bijapur and Golkonda. The Marthia form of poetry which sings the threnodies of the martyrdom of Imam Husain and his party at Karbala, was composed copiously in both Bijapur and Golkonda and during the Moharram days exchanges of these were made and sung in public in the assemblies of mourners. These literary compositions in fulfilment of religious obligations helped tremendously to bring about a cultural unity, kinship and identity between the two important southern kingdoms of Bijapur and Golkonda.

CONCLUSION

The Qutb Shahi dynasty of Golkonda occupied a unique position in the Deccan. It played a pivotal role in the political, diplomatic and cultural history of south India for nearly two centuries, 1496 to 1687 and remained a dominant partner in the inter-state rivalry in the Deccan as well as the resistance to the Mughal thrust towards the south. It continued to bear and withstand the Mughal pressure from the North particularly from 1621 onwards when Prince Khurram embarked on a "scorched earth" policy in the Deccan to break the alliance of Malik Amber with Bijapur and Golkonda and concluded treaties with Ibrahim Adil Shah and Muhammad Qutb Shah imposing indemnity of 20 lakhs on Haiderabad, 18 lakhs on Bijapur and 12 lakhs on Malik Amber. The Kingdom ended up in 1687 after bearing the brunt of the Mughal pressure, both diplomatic and military for another 67 years when Emperor Aurangzeb embarked upon a career of conquest and annexation in the Deccan and was backed by the full might of the resources and the fighting potential of the Mughal Empire.

The long life span of the Kingdom of Golkonda may be conveniently divided into two periods. (1) from 1496 to 1687 when the arena of conflict and inter-state relations was chiefly confined to the Deccan powers only, and (2) 1686 to 1687 when besides the Deccan powers the mighty Mughal Empire was the most formidable force to be reckoned with.
This first period in the Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur has been described and analysed in Chapter I to IV and partly in Chapter V which the second period in which the Golkonda-Bijapur relations were dominantly affected by the impending Mughal menace and the varying fortunes of the Deccan states due to the ever-increasing pressure and the demands of the Mughal Empire.

Chapter I deals with the prelude to the foundation of the Qutb Shahi dynasty in Golkonda. A brief survey of the disintegration of the Bahmani Empire, the emergence and nefarious growth of the Afaqi-Deccani conflict in the body-politic and the centrifugal tendencies in operation in the tottering Bahmani state are given. The genesis of the Golkonda state and the incipient stage of the Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur are also referred to.

Chapter II deals with the significant initial phase of Golkonda's existence and the nature of its relationship with the sister state of Bijapur during the periods of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk and Jamshid Quli Qutb-ul Mulk and the short period of Subhan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk. During this phase the primary concern of the rulers of Golkonda was to maintain balance of power in the Deccan so that one state should not dictate and dominate the others. But he himself became the target of the mischievous complicity of his neighbours. The alliance of 1532 between Burhan Nisam Shah of Ahmadnagar and Ismail Mil Shah of
of Bijapur by which the latter gave his sister in marriage to the former and promised to hand over the fort of Sholapur as dowry was significant. This alliance was utilised by Bijapur to invade Golconda territory. Ram Raj, the ambitious Raja of Vijaynagar who had to avenge his reverses at the hands of Sultan Quli Qutb-ul Mulk who had recovered parts of Telingana, formerly captured by the ruler of Vijaynagar. Later on Ali Barid of Bidar also joined this group making it a quadrupli alliance aimed at wrecking Golconda. But the great Golconda ruler, Sultan Quli fought with dashing courage, full, self-confidence, sound strategy and cool and calculated generalship and routed all his enemies, then he created rights in their alliance. The Sholapur question soon estranged Burhan Wazir Shah with Ibrahim Adil Shah and in the ensuing conflict Qutbul Mulk helped Ahmadnagar to defeat Ibrahim Adil Shah and capture the Bijapuri forts of Mirch, Balgaon and Farenda.

Sultan Quli's successful attempts at safeguarding his territory and rendering potential help to his friends in times of adversity enhanced his prestige. He seldom waged an aggressive war and was content to protect the integrity of his state. This was no mean achievement for the founder of a state.

The next ruler, Jamshid Quli Qutb-ul Mulk emerged victorious from difficult situations created by his neighbours. His main concern was to retain Bidar as the buffer state between Tilang and the western states. He was great as a ruler, a
diplomat and a statesman. He was endowed with tact and diplomatic skill and isolated Bijapur by the quadruple alliance forged by him. He showed his supremacy in 1547 when both Ibrahim Adil Shah and Ibrahim Wazir Shah solicited his help.

Chapter III is devoted to the Golconda-Bijapur relations during the reign of Ibrahim Qutb Shah in whose glorious reign social and cultural achievements of Golconda reached their zenith. He was essentially a man of peace who deprecated the constant warfare among the Deccan states. At the same time he was eager to retain status quo and the balance of power among them.

Ibrahim Qutb Shah too was obliged to fight defensive wars to preserve the integrity of his state and keep the balance of power in the Deccan which was the only guarantee of survival and sustenance in the disturbed Deccan conditions.

The period was really of great stresses and strains for Golconda in its relations with the neighbouring states. A prominent figure of the multi-pronged conflict of the period was Ram Ray, the great ruler of Vijaynagar with its enormous resources and military potential. He got involved into the affairs of the Deccan states too deeply and played the key role of setting one state against another from a commanding position which made him haughty and conceited as he often treated the Deccan powers with scorn. He was a friend of Bijapur and enemy
of Ahmadnagar and Golconda. Bijapur had remained at daggers drawn with Ahmadnagar on the question of Sholapur fort and the former tried to befriend Vijaynagar against the latter. Vijaynagar had its territorial claims on Golconda and Ahmadnagar. Husain Nizam Shah entered into a matrimonial alliance with Ibrahim Qutb Shah by giving the latter his daughter in marriage. This polarisation of forces led to constant troubles in the Deccan. To crown it, the Vijaynagar armies committed all kinds of excesses including sacrilege to mosques, plunder of cities and settlements and dishonour to women in Ahmadnagar in its inroads and ravages in 1662 and subsequently.

The Deccan Sultanates had been rendered as the happy hunting ground for the caprices of Ram Ray and the Deccan states became apprehensive of his rising power. Hence the quadruple alliance of Husain Nizam Shah, Ibrahim Qutb Shah, Ali Adil Shah and Ali Barid was formed to counteract the growing strength of Ram Ray. It led to the fateful Battle of Manhatti and rout of the Vijaynagar forces, capture and murder of Ram Ray and sack of his capital and loss of much territory to Vijaynagar Empire.

The Deccan Sultanates could not keep their alliance intact for long and the old tug of war reappeared. Quarrels began over sharing the conquered Vijaynagar territory and Adil Shah who coveted the largest position was faced with the hostile forces of the rest. Then Ibrahim Qutb Shah's rising strength and prestige arrayed Bijapur and Ahmadnagar against him and led to his defeat.
Murtaza Nisam next annexed Berar. This was a new challenge to Golkonda as it damaged the balance of power. Ibrahim Qutb Shah was now faced with the task of containing both Bijapur and Ahmadnagar. Bijapur's adventure in Karnataka further embittered relations between Bijapur and Golkonda.

These were the stresses and strains in which Ibrahim Qutb Shah worked and fought.

Chapter IV deals with the new phase of Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur under Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah and Muhammad Qutb Shah, 1580-1626. New dimensions were added to the problem of the Deccan by the Mughal intervention after Akbar's conquest of Gujarat in 1572. Akbar was keen to achieve the unification of the whole sub-continent and the Mughal menace had assumed alarming proportions. Yet the Deccan Sultnates were pre-occupied with thoughtless inter-state disputes which sapped their energies and doomed their changes of unified effort to push back the Mughal advance.

Chapter V describes and analyses the last phase of the Golkonda-Bijapur relations vis-a-vis the Mughal pressure from the North as well as the subversive activities of the Marathas, in the period of Abdullah Qutb Shah and Abul Hasan Qutb Shah. The inevitable problem of Karnataka takes its due place in Abdullah's relations with Bijapur. One significant feature of this concluding phase is that confrontation was replaced by
co-operation to an appreciable extent in the inter-state
relations between Golconda and Bijapur in the face of a life
and death struggle against the ever-ambitious designs of the
Mughal Emperors. Shah Jahan effected a transformation in the
status of Bijapur and Golconda from independence to vassalage
but he was not an advocate of forward policy aimed at outright
annexation of these two states in the Deccan.

Aurangzeb was more irked by the Maratha inroads and
crowns of the Mughal territory as well as the growth of
the Maratha power at the expense of the Deccan states and charged
the latter with both duplicity, lack of will and weakness of
strength in dealing with the Marathas. In the first half of the
reign he was contented with the fulfilment of the treaty obliga-
tions between the Mughal Empire and the Deccan Sultanates and
Bijapur and Golconda inter se.

The second half of Aurangzeb's reign witnessed the
forward policy with intent to achieving the annexation of both
Bijapur and Golconda because the latter had given constant provocations to the Emperor who had reached Ahmadnagar
on 13 November, 1683 to fight against the Marathas under
Sambhaji who had given asylum to the rebel Prince Akbar, fourth
son of Aurangzeb and had proclaimed him Emperor. Both Adil Shah
and Qutb Shah had failed to appeal to the susceptibilities of
the Emperor in their political and military responses and
Aurangzeb considered them as thorns in his way. Hence the exaltation of Bijapur and Golkonda as states took effect in 1666 and 1667 respectively.

Chapter VI discusses the Qutb Shahi relations with Bijapur in the fields of social, economic and cultural fields. The paucity of material on these topics from a study of the chronicles so far consulted and the detailed treatment of the political and military aspects of inter relations between these two states did not permit a fuller discussion but it would be dealt with in fuller details in the thesis. However, some significant developments of Golkonda-Bijapur relations in agricultural, industrial and commercial fields, the trade routes, the growth of Persian, Telugu and Dekhani languages, the artistic and architectural developments and social relations are briefly described in the chapter.
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   └── Qara Muhammad
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                           ┌── Amir Sikandar ─── Jahan Shah
                           │                └── Alwand Beg
                           └── Pir Quli = Khadija Begam
                               └── Chand Bibi = 'Ali Adil Shah I

                                   ┌── Allah-Quli ─── Uwais-Quli
                                   │                └── Fazli Khan = Mariam Khatun
                                   └── Saif Khan   ┌── (1) SULTAN-QULI QUTBU'L MUJIK (d.1543)

(8) AB'L-HASAN QUTB SHAH

(2) Haidar Khan (2) YAR QULI JAMSHID (1543–1550) Qutbu'd-din 'Abdu'l Karim Daulat Khan (4) IBRAHIM QUTB SHAH (1550–1580)
   = Bilkis Bismani = Muhammad = Magirati
   Khadija-i Dauran       Shah Muhammad = Jamal Bibi of
                        = Girl of Hazrat Gesu Daras's family
(3) SUBHAN (1550) Shah Khundkar

(Continued on Next page....)
Names in capital letters indicate reigning monarchs.
= indicates marriage.
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(2) Ismail Adil Shah (1511-1534) Daughter Mariyam

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(4) Ibrahim Adil Shah Daughter

(5) Ali Adil Shah Tahmasp

(6) Ibrahim Adil Shah (1579-1626) Ismail

(7) Muhammad Adil Shah (1626-1656)

(8) Ali Adil Shah Shani (1656-1672)

(9) Sikandar Adil Shah (1672-1686)

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