

A Report on the Ordoobadi Family of the Safavids Supreme Ministers (Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig & Mirza Talibkhan) (1592-1634)

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Received: December 29, 2012 Accepted: February 28, 2013 Online Published: June 26, 2013

doi:10.5539/ach.v5n2p151

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ach.v5n2p151>

Abstract

The main purpose of the present paper is to introduce and explicate the position and services of the most brilliant character –Etemad-Al-doleh of the ruling era of Shah Abbass the first called Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig Ordoobadi and his son-Talib Khan. Due to Shah's authority in this era, the paramount duty which can be assigned to the position of Etemad-Al-doleh was to control the geostrategy and military actions.

After Shah Abbass, the first-and due to the fact that the kings were brought up in seraglios and were far from gaining experience to manage the country, Etemad- Al-doleh developed his position so increasingly. According to the historical sources belonging to the Safavid era and itinerary of European, we can easily find out that Etemad-Al-doleh found his way into any governmental affairs. Based on the outstanding position of Hatam Beig and his son, it can be claimed that the social position is not considered just to promote the military officers ' ranks in Shah- Abbass era. Unlike the Safavi's point of view, the term of virtue- centered community was limited to recruiting the Georgian servants called "the establishment of the third military force". In the first decades, Etemad-Al-doleh enjoyed a valid social position and a proper background in tribunal. Studying the lives of supreme ministers shows us that the majority of them had court-based and military social origins.

Keywords: Safavid Shah Abbas the first, Hatam Beig, Talebkhan, Etemad, Al-doleh

1. Introduction

At the top of the tribunal of the safavids era/there was a position named Vakil Nafis Nafis Hodayoon. It was the highest position after the kings. From the time of Shah Esmaeel the first to the time of Shah Abbas the first it can be claimed that the vicegerent had really vast capabilities and also had to face Ghezelbash who had the ranking called Ghoorchi. In Shah Abbass the first era, the title of Etemad-Al-doleh/ a supreme minister / was replaced with the word vicegerent which belonged to the most brilliant character of the time called Mirza Hatam Beig and his son. We are to find out the relationship between Etemad-Al-doleh with the top military officer and see if they used to have some continuous conflicts. We are to make it clear if he had any role in all the developments in the mentioned era.

As a result of the inattention of the Persian sources and the travelogues of the European voyagers to the position and role of the supreme minister during the rule of Shah Abbas I, one cannot get access to a great amount of information about the record and performance of this father and his son, but due to the scarcity of resources and the inattentiveness of the researchers to the actions of the Ordoobadi family as the supreme ministers of the Safavid era, one can consider the present study a first step in the way of introducing these relatively unknown and unfamiliar figures.

The purpose of this article is to clarify the continuous and uncontinuous challenges and conflicts against Etemad-Al-doleh which was factually military conflicts and competitions, and also introducing the social position of Ordoobadi, supreme minister of Shah Abbas the first, along with a report on their activities during the three decades of their authority. The most crucial result of this research is to introduce the two outstanding geo-political characters at time of Shah Abbas .It is worth mentioning that nobody has written any articles about them so far. Introducing their proceedings can offer a report on the jobs and background by two important social –political characters in the era of Shah Abbas the first- in the research literature of Iranian of prime ministers.

2. The Geographical – Social Position of Ordoobadi

Ordoobadi is an area which is located on the north of Aras River. This area is very attractive and flourishing. Eskandar Beig Torkaman described the area by inspiring from one of the Hafez poem and talked about its pleasantry and natural beauty.

ای صبا گر بگنری بر ساحل رود ارس بوسه زن بر خاک آن وادی و مشکین کن نفس

Ordoobad is located at the foothill of Ghapan mountain. It is famous of its pleasantry, tenderness of sunset beauty, fruit trees, gardens, nice weather, and wholesome spring (Torkaman, 1971).

NasrAbadi and Torkaman have pointed out the pleasant and natural beauty of this area, admiring the Ordoobadi's family they said: "they are mostly possessing sanctity and high virtues along with mental talents and high spirits. They are also considered as one of the descendants of Khajeh Toosi and talks about his social position.

His professional background and the services of his family in the tribunal are as follow:

--Khajeh Hattam Beig's father – Bahram Ordoobadi – at the era of Shah Tahmoab – the first was the sheriff of Ordoobadi.

--He was the minister of Vali Khan Afshar and his son Beikdash was the governor of Kerman for ten years.

--Later on he served Shah Abbas the first and became the Mostofiol Mamalek.

He proved himself so efficient that after six months he became the supreme minister. Studying different biographies of officials in the Safavid's era, we cannot accept Roger Sifavids's theory of virtuecracy. Because he believed that recruiting new soldiers for the army such position Sfavid's are. His viewpoint is acceptable just about the recruiting new soldiers for the army such as: Armenian and Georgain members called humble servers". Therefore, we cannot call it logical to have the same opinion about the other agents and officials including "Etemad-Al-doleh" position (Savory, 1984). Now, let's concentrate on one of the other Etemad-Al-doleh in the Shah Abbass's era to find a logical reason to prove the writer's viewpoints. Khalife Soltan (Soltannol Olama and Dastoralvozara) as one of the Etemad–Al-doleh of Shah Abbass's era along with his father were the prime ministers. He was Abbass's son-in-law. He was given the title of Sultan Beig by the king. He and his family were greatly respected, as well (Ranjbar, 1994).

Since the successor of Shah Abbas I came to throne, the court-based origins of the individuals for being promoted to the position of supreme minister was gradually consigned to oblivion and the coalition of three groups, namely special servants, temporary wives and white Khajes became important in deciding about the future of this vacancy.

The common belief about Khajeh Hatam Beig Ordoobadi in the Safavid's era was his excellent and human personality characteristics. That's why some of these viewpoints are given. Molajalalodin the "astronomer" was one of the greatest figures in Shah Abbass the first era and he was famous for being the person with high talents, great in poetry techniques such as sonnet, quatrain, and ballade. Describing his admiring personality it can be said that he was interested in taking bribery and gifts" (Monnajem, 1987). Nasrabadi just like Torkaman called him as the one really knowledgeable and problem solver of the residents of Ordoobadi (Nasr Abadi, 1982).

Having admired his resourcefulness and perspicacity, he claimed that he was exactly counter of AseIbnBarkia the minister of the prophet soleiman (Torkaman, 1971). Jenabody as one of the other historians of the era admired his justice and trustworthy in tribunal (Jenabadi, 2000). Another European historian talked about his honesty, justice and strong will the common viewpoint and public admiration about Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beigs Ordoobadi can be the most unique viewpoint about the prime ministers in safavids era (Bellan, 1996).

3. The Domain of Duties and Operations of Khajeh Hatam Ordoobadi

Based on the references in the safavids era, it can be believed that the domain of duties and authority of Etemad Aldoleh were similar to those of Nafis Nafis Homayoon the minister in terms of social and political position in shah Esmail the first era. The difference is that during the long governing of shah Esmail- the first the ministerial position was authorized by the deputy while in Shah Abbass era Etemad Al doleh took the control of the military. Although, according to the entity history and task framework of ministerial position as the highest position in religious constitution the acted independently as the highest rank of the religious communities.

While Shah Abbas I was ruling, two holders of the position of chancellor, Khalifa, Sultan and Mirza Mohammad Mahdi were selected as supreme ministers; however, there's no mention of this era, the competitions and conspiracies of these two figures (supreme minister and chancellor).

Although the historical resources talked of the perspicacity, capability and merit of Khajeh Hatam Beig Ordoobadi in safavids era he was mostly mentioned for his presence in military actions and his main role in four military expeditions.

3.1 The Repression of Sayed Mobarak the Governor of Khoozestan Province and the Cities of Dezfool, Shooshtar /and Hovaizeh

In this mission, he and Farhad khan Romelo traveled to khoozestan on the way/ they were welcomed by shahverdi khan the governor of lorestan. He paid obedience go them (Torkaman, 1971).

3.2 The Repression of Tavayef Afshar and Hasan khan, the Governor of Kohkiloye

Based on the historical resources of safavid's era, Etemad- Al- doleh Mirza Hatam Beig Ordoobadi and Farhad khan Romelo along with the royal guards and entourages went to kohkilooyeh, repressed the afshar and Doshmanziar Lers who were rioting that time and Hasn khan who became the illegal governor in the chaos was overthrown (Torkaman, 1971; Monnajem, 1987).

3.3 Geostrategy in Heart and the Repression and the Decampment from Bokan

Torkman calls khajeh Hatam Beig as an efficient person in managing the army forces. He considered two attributes while controlling the army:

- 1- He awarded the military emirs and army commanders in the geostrategies.
- 2- In the army trip to heart just two military figures were killed called vali Beig Yuzbashi Ostajloo and Ghasem Beig.

Jelodar .This victory was achieved just by losing hundred army officers of the safavid troops (Torkaman, 1971).

3.4 The Geostrategy to Azarbaijan and Conquering Ghalapanjganeh Damdam

In 1901 A.H/1609 in which shah Abbass the first passed his 24 years of his kingdom was contemporaneous with the riot of Amirkhan of Baradoost tribes in Salmas Khajeh Mirza Htam Beig Ordoobadi and the safavid troops went to the site to repress them conquering the castle Hatam Beig passed away Ghezelbash troops conquered the castle under the rule of MohamadBeik and killed Amir khan Then shah Abbass appointed his son Mriaz Table, as the prime minster (Torkaman, 1971).

3.5 The Role of Khajeh Hatam Beig Ordoobadi as the Darolensha Secretary

Despite the Safavids historic resources which just appreciated the military services of Khajeh Hatam Beig Ordoobadi. Two scholars of his period stated his dangerous role in administrative affairs (دیوانی) Zabiollah Sabetian believed that Ordoobadi and Eskandar Beig Torkaman were two knowledgeable writers in eloquent contents and excellent writing style whose taste talent and dominance in writing would be effective in recording the events of shah Abbass's –reign (Sabetian,1964). There letters of shah Abbass to Abdolmoment khan -e-OZbak Abdollah khan –e – Ozbak and the letter to Molana sadolding malai are believed to be written by Hatam Beig (Sabetian, 1964). Because of his proficiency in writing .Hatam Beig became one of shah Abbass's privileged counselors and closest companions .His great role was not limited just to the letter writing Luei Brand believed that he attempted a lot to revoke the way of confiscation and fine which was administered in the past then he replaced it with fair manner

3.6 Construction Actions by Khajeh Hatam Beig

There is no clear evidence on making construction, but his role in making historical monuments in the reign of shah Abbass the first is undeniable. It can be pointed out that he has built a public bathroom called Hatam Beig Bathroom on shah Abbass street on Malek junction in Esfahan (Bellan, 1996).

4. The Death Time Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig Ordoobadi

Mola Jalaloding Monajjem pointed to a poem by Molana in which the death time of Khajeh Mirza is mentioned. It is believed the death time was 1019 A.H/1610.if we just study these poems and when we put the first letter of the word “Hatam” and the word “Azam” together we will have the haazam equaling the year 1019 according to the abecedaries letters.

که بودش مسند آصف مسلم	قوام ملک دستور معظم
زبانش بازبان خامه توام	زمینش باسواد ملک یکسان
به ننگ از استراک نام حاتم	به ننگ از نسبت او با عطارد
نهال قدر عمر کوتاهش خم	شد از باد اجل چون پشت گردون

چنین خوانند در طغرای عالم

نشان سال تاریخ وفاتش

نبنسته هیچ کس در هیچ عالم

ظهوری! نخل تاریخ چنینی

(Mannajem, 1987)

5. The Investigation on Why the Safavids Historians and Enrupean Travel Account Writers Have not Paid Much Attention to What Khajeh Miraza Hatam Beig Ordoobadi Did

5.1 *The authority of sahad Abbas the First – and his Dominance all Affairs of the Country*

The king's operational character helped him to fulfill there great successes such as:

- 1) Providing security and law and discipline for all and organizing the army and reforming the financial systems
- 2) Sending the Uzbeks out of khorasan province
- 3) Retaking the lands occupied by the Osmanli troops (savory, 1984). All those led to a situation in which increased the direct role of Etemad – Al-doleh.

This is while in the era of the successors of Shah Abbas I when the kings would come to power from sacrosanct instead of being grown up by nannies, their incapability and powerlessness from one hand and ruling the special properties and assets from the other hand would give more prominence and importance to the position of the supreme ministers.

Hatam Beig Ordoobadi put down the previous military discipline and constitute the new one with the Georgian Armenian and Cerkes servants .This new combination and discipline caused everybody to show solidarity and sodality toward each other .He was the character who could put different nations together in peace .He came form a family famous for glory He was the one who attended all the geostrategion as the minister.

5.2 *The Magnificence and Proceedings of Etemad- Al – doleh – at the Time of Deputies of Shah Abbass the First*

The role and function of Etemad –Al –doleh seemed serious and significance when the safavid kings were powerless Ali Reza Karimi (Karimi, 2000). It believes that role and position of Etemad –A- doleh was manificent after the reign of shah Abbass the first.

Shah Abbass the first interfered in may affairs such as: visiting the foreign ambassadors, making the peace and commerce treaties and commercial contracts were the sings of not considering the rank of Etemad –Al-doleh (Matti, 1998). It is believed that administrative power of the prime minster was great after Shah Abbass the first also he had an effective role non- admission of Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig Ordoobadi.

Since during the tenure of Shah Safi and Shah Suleiman, Saru Taghi and Sheikh Ali Khan Zangana were so brilliant and successful in managing the special properties and assets and regulating the country's domestic and foreign affairs, today their names are mentioned approvingly by the scholars of our time as the most prominent and meritorious supreme ministers of the Safavid dynasty.

Mirza Aboo Tale Ordoobadi was the son of Hatam Beig Ordoobadi whose Biography was stated in advance. Shah Abbass the first appointed Mirza Taleb as the prime minister after his father's death .Unfortunately. all the safavid's resources have referred to the king as the sole power of the country and weakened the role of the prime minster .One of the specific jobs done by the king was that the ordered not to take the Iranian currency out of the country .He ordered the pilgrims to visit the other shrines in Iran instead of Mecca. Those who insisted on going to Mecca were asked offer a lot of money to the king (Etemad-al- Saltaneh, 1985). This decision was led to spend on construction building and development of the country In all the safavid's resources .the aforementioned job is referred to the king, but Dr. Bastani Parizi claims that the idea of preventing people from taking the Iranian currency out was a job being mentioned as the one done by the ministers although it was administered until the end of safavid's ear (Parizi, 1987).

Despite the fact that the references have praised what shah Abbass the first did Dr. Bastani's idea cannot be accepted due to the fact that after the king many people went to Mecca. Sharden claims that more than ten thousands went to Saudi Arabia yearly in the reign of Shah Abbass the second and Shah Soleiman the pilgrims were not allowed to go Saudi Arabia for a while.

It should be mentioned that his condition was not because of financial problems but the bad behavior of the Arabs against the Iranian pilgrims (Mattip, 1998). In each period of the Iranian history we have had the strong and undeniable role of the ministers. As mentioned before the Safavid references did not sate anything about the proceeding done by miraza Taleb khan But describing about the incidents in the year 1027 A.H.

EshandarBeigTorkaman pointed out the disagreement between Mirza Taleb and Mostofioltmamalek – Ghavama Mohammad Isfahani (Torkaman, 1998).

It can be understood that Mirza Taleb was a serious and strict character in enforcing the law but he did not hold some considerations. Torkaman who was appointed by the king for investigation and inspection this case. Believed that the arbitration report benefited Mirza Taleb. The most important thing done by Mirza Taleb was transmitting the water from Koohrang Tunnel to Isfahan in 1029 A.H. Although this job reached nowhere it can be referred to as one of the things done by Mirza Taleb Ordoobadi. It's been reported His Majesty –Shah Abbass the first decided to transmit the water to Isfahan to be added to Zayandehrood river to make it possible for the farmers to irrigate the crops and gardens. The king appointed Mirfazlolah Shahrestani to do the whole project. He had to tunnel through the mountains. After some time they could't keep on doing the job because there was high mountain that made tunneling impossible. This matter made him worried. A lot of the builders and engineers repeatedly claimed the impracticality of the project. The king's preoccupations lasted for some years. He repeatedly sent architects and engineers to work on the project. They finally verified construct a dam up to eight meters in front of water it would fulfill the job (Torkaman, 1971; Ghazvini, 2004).

Mirza Taleb Khan Ordoobadi worked in the governmental offices organizations and as prime minister for ten years was fired. The viewpoint of the historians of the safavid era regarding his dismissal seems contradictory and ambiguous. They abstained from telling the truth on one hand they praised him for his values and goodness on the other hand they claim his dismissal was due to his wrong actions. NalehGhazvini believes it was because of spending time with the ignorant and the drunk (Ghazvini, 2004). Eskandar Beig Torkaman claims that the reason was the fact that he was under the control of his superego. Additionally Hedayat stated that his ambition was the main reason (Hedayat, 2006).

He started his second period of being minister in Shah Safavid's era. He was the prime minister from the year 1041 A.H to 1043 A.H who was finally killed by the order of the king.

Some safavid resources have praised him and Torkaman has admired him for his accomplishments and values (Torkaman, 1971). He was the great minister (Esfahani, 1989).

Abolmofakherin Fazlollah Hosseini calls his "Nezamolmolk-e-Sani" (Hosseini, 2009) both the historians-khajegi Isfahani and Abolmafakher Hosseini-believed that Mirza Taleb Khan was killed not because of his betraying the king or being tactless but asserted that everything was because of the royal officials. Khajegi Isfahani claims that the king ordered to kill the supreme minister because there were some royal official who fell so jealous about him and were awaiting to change the king's mind about the minister (Esfahani, 1989). Abolmafakher Hosseini also adds that "the supreme minister was not admired by the jealous rivals (Hosseini, 2009).

According to the texts written by KhajegiIsfahani, it can be inferred that Mirza Taleb Khan, as the successor, had a key role in killing Mirza Taleb Khan (KhajegiEsfahani, 1989). KhajegiIsfahani believes that Sarootaghi wanted Taleb Khan to be killed and also tried hard to defame the Ordoobadi household. He made Ali Gholi Khan- the son of the powerful ruler in Kerman and the son-in-law of the killed minister –separated Ghandhar from Iran and added it to India Mongol Empire.

Due to the social position of Mirza Taleb Khan and way he was judged in the safavid references, we should not have a negative toward feeling toward the supreme minister because in a letter to his teacher called Mir Mohammad Hossein Hosseini Tafashi Mirza Talib Khan mentions that he was dethroned because he was not able to fulfill his jobs properly (Hosseini, 2009). He did not point to the real reasons but maybe it was because the king decided to have new personnel in the political in the political official social and economical organization. In the time of shah'safi Sarotaghi became his successor. Taghi Khan Sarotaghi was an enemy of Mirza Talib Khan who had a big role in making the king eager to kill him. This story is similar to the murder of Amidolmalek by the king Alp Arsalan Saljooghi being persuaded by Khajeh Nezamolmolk Toosi.

6. Conclusion

The holders of the position of Vakil Nafs Nafis Hodayoun generally enjoyed dynastical nobility. Mirza Salman Khan Jaberi Ansari who was the first supreme minister (Etemad-al-Dawla) of the Safavid dynasty can be considered as having a court-related nobility origin and this fact is acceptable as regards the Ordoobadi dynasty because Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig and his son-Mirza Talib Khan – had the tribunal position. They both finally became the supreme minister. In the safavid resources the father seemed to have a big role in geostrategies and military victories and the most crucial job done by Talib Khan was to transmit water from Koohrang to Zayandehrood. It can still be claimed that in thirty years of father and son ministry, Iranian culture and civilization

really flourish. That's why in the reign of Shah Abbas the first, these two had a key role in the major changes of that time. The end of the era of ministry of Ordoobadi dynasty can be considered a final point for the court-related origins of the supreme minister, because except for Mirza Taghi Khan Sarootaghi and Mirza Muhammad Beig Etemad-al-Dawla who lacked a noble, dynastical or court-related origin, the rest had military origins such as the posts of Ghoorchi Bashi, Ishik Aghasi, etc. They were called the influential characters. Khajeh Mirza Hatam Beig was titled "Asef-Ibn-Barkhia and his son Nezamolmolk-E-Sani". It has been tried in the Safavid resources to call the role of the supreme ministers as the mere cause of the success of Soleiman Nabi and Sultan Malek Shah Saljughhi.

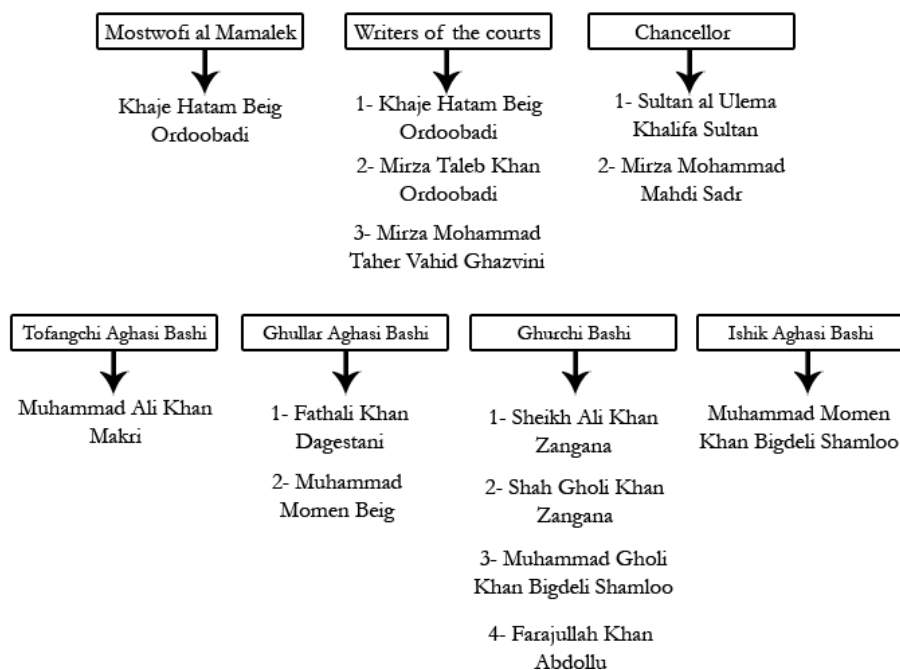


Figure 1. The illustration of the type of social origins of the supreme ministers of Safavid Dynasty

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