

## CHAPTER - X

Mehmood with the above wealth raised a big army comprising of Turks and lured large number of volunteers and marched in September 1018 A.D. from Ghazni and crossed the Indus and other rivers of Punjab with the help of Lohara Ruler of Kashmir and then crossed Jamuna.

Cambridge History of India by Sir Welsely Haig at Page 664 and 665, Chronology of India, mentions:-

**“In 1018-1019 A.D. Mehmood invades India, marches to Baran, Mahaban, Muttra (Mathura) and Kannauj. Further Captures Manaich, Asni, Sarva and returns to Ghazni via Kannauj, with the booty. With this booty and funds, the Great Mosque of Ghazni was built by him.”**

Sir Elliot, and Prof. Dowson, in their book, “History of India as told by its own Historians- Mohammadan Period” at page 41 write:-

**“He then went to “Munj” Briggs says the fort of Munj, full of Rajputs’ The Tarikh-e- Alfi says “MANJ”. Farishta says it held out fifteen days the fort is known as the fort of Brahmins, the inhabitants of which were independent as head strong camels. They prepared to offer opposition, like evil demons and obstinate Satan’s and when they found they could not withstand the Musalmans, and that their blood would be shed, they took to flight, throwing themselves down from the apertures and the lofty and brood battlements, but most of them were killed in this attempt. After this Sultan advanced against the fort of Asi, (Asni), then to Sarva against Chand Rai.”**

In Chapter II pages 19-20 Sir Welsely Haig mentions:-

**“From Kannauj Mehmood Marched to MANAICH after wards known as Zafrabad near Jaunpur. The fortress was strongly garrisoned and well furnished with supplies, but a vigorous siege of 15days reduced the Defenders to such despair that they performed rite of ‘Jauhar’ first slaying their wives and children and then rushing out to perish on the sword of the enemy.**

**After plundering MANAICH, Mehmood attacked “ASNI” a fortress in the immediate neighborhood defended by deep ditches and a dense jungle, i.e. to say an enclosure of thick bamboos.”**

Here Sir W. Haig mistook MANAICH as Zafrabad. You will find that he himself writes that from Manaich Mehmood went to Asni. Zafrabad town and Asni are one and same place. At one place Haig says that

MANAICH is the modern Town called Zafrabad and then says that from Manaich Mehmood went to Asni. In fact ASNI town and Zafrabad are one and same rather Asni is a part of Zafarabad town. The fort there, is called the fort of Asni. It is in District Jaunpur and about 20 to 25 miles South of Anwak.

Sir W. Haig correctly records that from MANAICH Mehmood went to Asni and from ASNI marched to West Ward to a town called Sarwa on Ken (River Ken) between Kalinjer and Banda. The town Sarwa was the residence of another Jaichand, who has been at enmity with the Jaichand of Kannauj and even held his foe's son in captivity. Jaichand of Kannauj who wished to terminate the strife, had sent his son Bhimpal to arrange a marriage between his sister and Jaichand of Sarwa. Jaichand of Kannauj tried to dissuade the Jaichand of Sarwa from rashly attempting to measure his strength against that of the invader Mehmood. Jaichand of Sarwa at one place arrested Bhimpal and on the other hand accepted the advice of Kannauj Ruler and left his capital Sarwa, taking with him his wealth and, greater part of his army, and elephants and took refuge in the thick jungle. Mehmood on reaching Sarwa and finding the town abandoned by its ruler, was not content with capture of empty town, because Mehmood's intention has never been to expand his Kingdom but only to loot the wealth from the rulers and hidden in temples etc. He therefore pursued the Sarwa ruler into the forest, and after locating him, attacked shortly before midnight on January, 5, 1019 A.D. defeated him captured all the elephants, spice and Jewels, and large number of captives as slaves. Since the capture of the booty was enough, he proceeded back to Ghazni via Kannauj. It is also wrong to assume that as has been described by certain Historians Mehmood's missions in India was to spread Islam. His object has been to loot wealth and in the process finding large quantities of wealth hidden in the temples destroyed them to excavate the wealth.