

CHAPTER - XIII

WHO ARE AFGHANS

The common concept that Afghans are clan by itself is wrong. In fact Afghans are assortment of various races and clans migrated in the area from various Northern and Western regions. The concept or the origin of word “Afghan” came into being after Subuktighin destroyed the Hindushahi rule of Kabul, in and around 986 A.D. The common belief that those migrated from the areas North of Khaiber during Muslim’s rule in India or along with Mehmood were Afghans is factually wrong. In-fact there is no race or clan with the title or name of “AFGHAN”. The country which is now called Afghanistan came to be called so after 986 A.D. Before this date no one new the word ‘AFGHANISTAN’ as a country or ‘AFGHAN’ as a race or clan. Professor J.L. Mehta at page 31 and 32 describes the origin of “Afghan” or “Afghanistan” words as under:-

“The word Afghanistan has Persian in origin. Afghan means “cry.” In Urdu or Hindi it means, “Chillana” or (Shore Machana). The term originated according to Akhund Derveza a learned of the era and a saint of Akbar’s reign. In the 1st battle (986-87 A.D.) of Subuktighin with Jaipal, the ‘Hindushahi’ ruler of Kabul, when the encounter took-place, the Hindu soldiers raised such a loud noise (Jai Bajrang Bali) that it non-pulsed the Army of Subuktighin. It was this cry of the Jaipal’s soldiers gave them the title/appellation of ‘AFGHAN’ by Subuktighin and his Army. The term Afghan finds mention for the 1st time in the chronicles of the eleventh Century when the entire valley of Kabul had passed under the rule of the dynasty founded by Subuktighin.”

J.L.Mehta further writes:-

“Afghanistan and Punjab were part of ancient India. In the 8th Century Afghanistan was known by two regional names, i.e. “KABUL” and “ZABUL”. The Northern part was called “Kabulistan” and was governed by Buddhist dynasty. Its Capital was called “LALLIA” at the bank of a River of the same name Lallia. A Brahmin minister of the last Buddhist ruler Lagturman, deposed him and laid the foundation of Hindushahi dynasty. Thus the Buddhist rule and influence was removed and Brahminical system was imposed.”

Regarding the other area called 'ZABUL' or 'ZABULISTAN' which was at the Southern part of the present day Afghanistan, was being ruled by a clan, called by Muslim historians as "RAHBUTS". J.L. Mehta says that RAHBUTS is the corrupted word of 'RAJPUTS'. Be it as it may Rahbut or Rajput the people of Mohammadpur were neither part of Kabul or Zabul. They belonged to an absolutely different area and clan, called KAKAR, who were settled around Farha river at the border of Persia, Transoxiana (also called Turan) and Turkaministan. Some Indian Historians claim that the Pathans of Afghanistan have their lineage from Pandavas of Mahabharat fame, some chronologically claim their lineage from Bani Israil of Syria. However as for those clans who belongs to the family tree of Qais. Qais adopted Islam in 622(h) on the hands of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad Sal-lallah-o-Wasallam (P.B.U.H.) who gave him the Arabic name as Abdur-Rasheed and a title of 'Pehtan'. Qais and his people were originally and prior to adoption of Islam, Bani-Israili of Syrian origin. After adoption of Islam and marrying the daughter of Khalid-bin-Valeed a Sahaba of Prophet, and a Quraish of Saudia Arabia the subsequent children and clans became half Bani-Israili and half Quraish, and Kakars are one of them.

"The Pathan" at pages 7, 8 & 9 in the Chapter the Genealogien mentions as under:-

The Afghan chroniclers would have it that Khalid Bin Walid the most famous of the Prophet's Ansar (Companions - Shaba) and the first great Arab conquerer, belonged to the tribe of the decendent of Afghana resident near Mecca. (all other Muslim tradition states him to have been an Arab of the Makhsum family of the Prophet's tribe of Quraish). On conversion to Islam, while the Prophet (PBUH) was still alive and before Khalid's conquest of Syra and Iraq, Khalid either proceeded in person, or sent a letter, to his kinsman of the Bani Israel in Ghor, to bring them tiding of the new faith (Islam) and an invitation to join the Prophet's Standered.

This resulted a deputation of a number of a representative of the Afghans Ghor, led by one Qais which proceeded to meet the Prophet (PBUH) at Madina. This Qais is said to be decendent from Saul in the 37th generation".

This Qais and his comrades then waged war most gallantly on the Prophet's behalf. The Chroniclers records:-

"The Prophet (PBUH) lavished all sorts of blessings upon them and having ascertained the name of each indivisual, and remarked that Qais was a Hebrw name, where as they themselves were Arabs, he gave

Qais the name of Abdur Rashid and observed further to the rest that, they being the posterity of Malik Talut, it was quit proper and just they should be called Malik likewise — and the Prophet (PBUH) predicted that God (Allah) would make the issue of Qais so numerous that they would outlive all other people, that this attachment to the faith would in strength be like the wood upon which they lay the keel when constructing a ship which seamen call Pehtan; on this account he confirmed upon Abdur Rasid the title of Pathan also”.

It is from this Qais alias Abdur Rasid alias Pathan the chroniclers derive the whole nation. It is narrated by him (Qais) that as directed by Prophet (PBUH) he returned to Ghor successfully to propogate/ preach the new faith (Islam). Qais died in the 41st Year of Hijrat, aged 87, living 3 Sons the eldest being Sarvan, the second Bitan (or Batin) the third Ghurbust. These three being the ancestores of the various branches of the Pakhtu and Pashtu speaking people.”

From Kakar the KAKAR tribe came into being. Kand had two sons Khakhi and Ghori. From Khakhi came the tribes of Mandauri, Yushuf Zai, who were mostly settled in Peshawar Vally. Zamands were settled in Multan later shifted to Kabul, Ghazni and Ghor Land. Later majour part of Babar’s Army consisted of this tribes who are settled in Kasaur and Lahore. Kansis immigrated in settled in south India and are so mixed with the locals that now they cannot be identified probably the Shivanis and Dadis are from Kansi tribe.

