

## CHAPTER —XIV

### 'THE AFGHANS AND PATHANS'

Two very important writers have given detailed account of Afghanistan and its races. One book titled, "The Pathan" is by Sir Olof Caroe'. The other is called, "The Races of Afghanistan" by Surgeon Major, H.W.Bellew C. S. I., originally published by, Thacker, Spink, and Company, London, in 1880. "The Pathan" basically deals with the arrival of British in Afghanistan in the backdrop of Afghan Rulers prior to 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The second book as is evident from its title deals arrivals and developments of various races and clans in Afghanistan from Transoxiana, the country called Turan in contradistinction to Iran in or about the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D. when the Arabs were overrunning the said areas, is more relevant at this stage.

H.W.Bellew in chapter II says that by, "traditions (Afghans) refer themselves to Syria as the country of their origin at the time they were carried away into captivity by Bukhtunassar and planted them in different parts of Persia and Media. From these positions they, at some subsequent period, immigrated eastward into mountainous country of Ghor where they were called by the neighboring people as 'Bani Issrail'." This fact is also confirmed in Tabacat-e-Nasisri- by Alee Umer Minhaj. Hebrew was the Semitic to the people in ancient Palestine. Hebron is defined as "Arab-EI-Khalil". Hebron is also an ancient town in Israili occupied Western Jordon near Jerusalem on the caravan route to Egypt, and the burying place (Qabristan) of Hazrat Ibrahim and his wife Hazrat Sarah.

The term Pathan and Khan has very wide application in India. However in Afghanistan it is used only by Pakhtuns for themselves. In India, it is being used for all the people belonging and/or living in Afghanistan, including Tajik and Hazarah even if they speak Persian. Low caste Hindus who converted to Islam in India were not assimilated socially by those Muslims who came from Arab, Iran or Afghanistan and even those who adopted Islam from upper caste of Hinduism. These migratory from Arab and Iran assumed the title of Shekh or Syed. Those who came from Afghanistan generally adopted the surname as "Khan" instead Pathan. Those who came with Moghals adopted the surname as Mirza. The Moghals always had the rivalry with Afghans. Babar was Moghal who snatched the Indian kingdom from Sikander Lodi who was Afghan. During Moghal Rule all those, low caste Hindus who adopted Islam were encouraged by

Moghals to adopt as their surname "Khan". This was done by Moghal rulers to degenerate the original Afghans/Pathans. Local converts out of lower castes of Hindus, adopted the surname of Khan in an effort to upgrade themselves socially. In Islam irrespective of their origin of caste are supposed to be treated equal but the effect of Hindu culture in India was adopted by the Muslims also and they introduced even among the believers of Islam caste system against the fundamental principle of Islam. Indian Muslims accepted the concept of equality and brother-hood in the Mosques with all those who adopted Islam, but did not adopt them socially or in day to day dealings, nor for marriage of their children. This was done more by those who emigrated from Arab countries as Arabs considered themselves a superior class over the non Arabs in the same manner as the Aryans considered themselves as Blue Eyed clan over non Aryans.

Here I would like to quote from the last khutba delivered by Prophet (P. B. U. H.) at the Arafat on the occasion of his last Haj:-

1. O! People you have only one God. 2. You are children of Adam. 3. All of you (human being) are brothers. 4. Adam was created out of clay. 5. There is no cast system among human being. No one is superior to other due to colour or race. All human being are equal. 6. Superiority or inferiority comes only by your act (Karma-Taqva-by Khuda Prasti). 7. Spilling of human blood (on account of personal gain or revenge) is prohibited by Allah. 8. The estate of deceased must be divided among the legal heirs in the ratio mentioned in Holy Quraan. 8. No legal heir can be deprived of his share by will (Waseeyat) against the ratio fixed by Holy Quraan in favour of any non legal heir except not exceeding 33% out of the share of legal heirs. 9. It is compulsory upon all to give the share to woman as fixed in the Holy Quraan.

Unfortunately all those Muslims who came to India from Arab, Iran, Turan, etc. adopted the system from Hinduism, which they found beneficial to them even if it was against the tenants of Islam.