

CHAPTER- IV

There are many spots in and around the village Mohammadpur which are described as the graves of Martyrs (Called Shaheedwaras). This shows that at the initial stage the people of Mohammadpur had frequent conflicts with the local inhabitants, and neighboring small time Rulers. The Adivasis of the area comprised of Bheels, Sivri, Rajbhar, Bhor and Cheeru etc. who shifted towards South-East in the district of Mirzapur and surroundings. The Bheels were traditionally protectors of the liquid wealth of the local Rajas .When any Raja was either killed or had to run away leaving whatever they could not carry with them, these Adivasis being loyal to them buried the same under the ground at some marked place and prepared the site map which they passed on generation after generation till they are able to locate and excavate the same even after passage of many centuries. As late as even in 20th Century in my childhood many gipsy type group of families (called Banjara) along with their cattle used to visit the out-skirt of the village preferably at the bank of the river, and stay there for months together. They used to roam around apparently aimlessly. However suddenly one fine night they used to vanish leaving behind no trace as to where they had gone, leaving some spot having been dug. At times, few ancient coins were found in the debris. . The elders used to say that these gipsies are out of those Adivasis whose fore fathers were the original inhabitants of this area and left when our ancestors occupied and settled there. Their future generations keep visiting generation after generation until they are able to locate the spot where their ancestors had buried the wealth. Once they are able to locate the exact spot from the site plan they carried with them they dig out the same in the darkness of the night and leave with the wealth in the night itself so that no one is able to find out their where about.

The area around the village Mohammadpur has lots of History hidden and buried since ancient times and remnants are there for those who may be interested to excavate. While I was student in Shibli Higher Secondary School and Shibli Post Graduate College I tried to read books especially dealing with medieval period, but could not get the details as to when and why Mehmood of Ghazni came to the area. Generally it was found in the History books that Mehmood's area of operation remained mostly around Peshawar, Punjab, Sindh, and Western U.P. around Bulandshahar, Mathura, Kannauj and Kalinjer in Madhaya Pradesh. The History of India, as told by its own Historians, Edited by H.M. Elliot and Dawson Part-II, at page 153 foot note mentions that the conquest of 'MUNJ, ASI, or ASNI, and the fort of Chand

Rai mentioned by Utbi-Rashiduddin and Mirkhand has been omitted along with other expeditions of Mahmood which preceded to Somnath. Till I had not read Cambridge History of India, it bothered me that if Mahmood did not come to Eastern part of Uttar-Pradesh how and why our ancestors reached to the place where the Village is situated and selected a spot for their abode which was neither suitable for agricultural purposes nor for orchard purposes. Moreover, the village is at the Southern-Eastern end of the village boundary, leaving the entire area extending to Northern-Western side approximately a mile making it difficult for the village people to have proper control over it. This proves that the object of settlement on the spot, where the populated part of village, is existing was not to adopt agriculture as means of living, but for military related object as cantonment. The object was to keep a watch on the activities of the people beyond the border of Kanauj kingdom. The choice of spot to settle could not have been for the purpose of settlement or permanent abode because even the under ground water level in an around the spot is very low and also quality of water is hard. However it appears that at some subsequent stage to augment and maintain the water level under the ground three deep ponds (garhi/pokhari) were dug as water reservoir. One is at the southern-western side, second is at the western-northern side and the third is at the eastern side of the village. The one at the western-northern corner of the village is called "LAKHESAR". The story is that around this pond over one lac people were killed. But nobody knows when and in which war and between whom? These ponds are natural source of augmentation of water level under the ground as is being done by construction of water harvesting system in modern times. These are the proof that the people of village were not absolutely unaware about the mechanism of survival and decent living. During rainy season these ponds are full of water and through out the year it filters to the under ground and seeps to the wells besides using the water for irrigation purposes. The soil of Phariha village is very conducive for agricultural purposes and the populated part of Phariha village is established in the middle of the boundary of the village.