

## CHAPTER- IX

Subuktigin died in 997 A.D. at the age of 56 years on the Balkh Frontier, while in active command of his army. Subuktigin left behind four sons, i.e. Abdul Qasim Mehmood, Ismail, Nasr, and Yusuf. Mehmood was 27 years of age and was the eldest son of Subuktigin. When Subuktighin died, Mehmood was at Nishapur, in charge of Khurasan army on behalf of Samanids. Taking advantage of this situation his younger brother Ismail declared himself Ameer of Ghazni and actually ruled over the kingdom for over seven months. Mehmood defeated him and arrested him and installed himself as the ruler of Ghazni. Within a year of ascending the throne of Ghazni Mehmood was able to secure the recognition from Al Qadir Billah the Caliph, the then Khalifa of Baghdad, as the, "Sultan of Afghanistan and Khurasan." (Ref. J.L. Mehta's "Advance Study in the History of Medieval India" Vol. I, By Sterling Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, pages 49- 50.)

The Cambridge History of India, by Lt. Col. Sir Wolseley Haig, Published at University Press Cambridge-U.K. in 1929, in 3<sup>rd</sup> Vol. Chapter —II, from page 13 writes that:-

"it is difficult to follow, the long series of expeditions lead by Mehmood into India in pursuance of his vow. To reconcile the accounts of Historians who contradicted not only one another but even themselves and to identify places disguised, under a script ambiguous in itself and mutilated by generations of ignorant scribes."

According to this book Mehmood for the first time independently after the death of his father advanced to Peshawar in September 1001 A.D., defeated and captured Jaipal, 1st on 27<sup>th</sup> September. Mehmood later released Jaipal who killed himself un-able to face the humiliation. Thereafter Mehmood undertook few more expeditions and in one of the expeditions while returning to Ghazni he was attacked by Abul Fateh Daud who was the ruler of Multan. Daud inflicted heavy loss to Mehmood. To take revenge against Daud, Mehmood marched in 1005 and attacked at Multan where Daud pleaded peace, Mehmood accepted and spared him. This Mehmood did because in the meantime Ghazni was attacked by Turks and he had to return to Ghazni to save it.

The confrontation of Daud with Mehmood establishes, that certain areas in Punjab and Sindh were already under Muslim Rule before Mehmood came, secondly even Muslim rulers did not want Mehmood to

disturb the local rulers and also that Mehmood did not spare even Muslim Rulers who so-ever challenged him.

It was in or about 1010 A.D. Mehmood intended to go further deeper into the Indian territories but was intercepted by a large army of various Hindu Rajas at Taraori about seven miles north of Karnal who all were defeated by Mehmood. From there he returned to Ghazni because he got enough wealth there. In 1013 A.D. he captured Nandana from Bheempal and then in 1014 captured Thanesar.

In 1015 Mehmood invaded Kashmir and captured Lohkot but due to bad weather he was forced to retire. This was Mehmood's first serious defeat which forced him to return to Ghazni.

In 1016 and 1017 A.D. Mehmood again remained occupied in Khurasan and in the North provinces of his empire. It was in 1018 A.D. Mehmood after settling the opposition in his empire in Gazni, raised an army of fresh Turks of 1,00,000 horse borne soldiers plus 20,000 volunteers from Turkmenistan, Transoxiana and the confines of Khurasan. The 20,000 volunteers were not paid nor were part of regular army of Mehmood but had joined Mehmood as they were eager to share in the rich spoils of India. They had seen Mehmood bringing to Ghazni after each expedition huge quantity of wealth in cash and kind. The ancestors of Mohammadpur were part of the 20,000 volunteers.