

MALIK AMBAR : ARCHITECT OF AURANGABAD CITY

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Malik Mean king and Ambar means Black flowers fragrance. Very little is known about the early life and career of Malik Ambar. He himself was not an autobiography, like his contemporary, Emperor Jahangir, who could have written about his ancestor or early life etc. But the scattered material in official and non-official histories of the period and the stray references in the diaries of the foreign travellers, does enable us to form a coherent picture of his childhood, youth and old age. Ambar Chapu, Ambar Jiu (Life or Heart) Malik Ambar as he was commonly known in the Deccan, he was born at HARAR in ETHOPIA, in obscure Abyssinian (Africa) family in the year 1549 A.D. Like Qutubuddin Aibak, Iltumish and Balban, who played heroic role on the political stage Northern India, Malik Ambar was brought up by his poor parents and sold to Qazi-ul-Quzat of Mecca in the famous slave market of Baghdad and then to Khawaja Mir Baghdadi, commonly known as Mir Qasim, one of the famous merchants of that town. The Khwaja treated him like his own son with utmost generosity and kindness. Here M.A. was again sold to Mirak Dabir, styled as Changez Khan one of the famous and

influential nobles of Murtuza Nizam Shah - I of Ahmednagar. Changez Khan had already a thousand slaves to maintain his position at the court, which was rent with party strife.¹ Gradually he rose to power. Within a short time Malik Ambar gained prominence among the other slaves of his master. Under the patronage of his wise and able benefactor who controlled the gear of Nizam Shahi Politics and wielded much power and influence at the court, Malik Ambar being very close to him, got a chance to study the working of civil and military administration of the Nizam Shahi state. The untimely death of Nizam Shahi state. The untimely death of Changez Khan gave a rude shock to him, for it retarded the growth of his rising fortune and threw him into wilderness. The irreparable loss of an able master on the other hand led him to stand on his own legs. Tribute to the credit of Changez Khan that he had left a deep impression of his fine qualities on his favourite Malik Ambar. He later joined the Nizam Shahi army as an ordinary soldier. In this capacity he got another opportunity to watch closely the dark clouds which were gathering on the political horizon of the Nizam Shahi Kingdom.² (Futuh-at-i-Adil Shahi, Page 262)

The arrival of the forces under prince Murad, Khan Khanam and Shah Baaz Khan and others created great confusion in the political life of the capital Ahmednagar. Because of chaos, confusion he was disappointed, he decided to leave for Golkunda in the hope of leading a peaceful life there. He then went to Bijapur, joined the Adil Shah army, in which he held a minor rank. Being an Abyssinian he failed to get any recognition of his services. His surging ambitions brought him back to Ahmednagar

along with some other Abyssinians, who were coming to seek their fortunes in the troubled atmosphere there.³

Malik Ambar became the prime minister of Wakil-ut-Saltanat of the Nizam Shahi kingdom. Parenda was the temporary capital of the Nizam Shahis. Thus in a short time by sheer dint of the ability, experience and courage Malik Ambar reestablished the administration, restored law and order in those parts of the country over which he wielded influence. Now since there was a king and a capital with an able prime minister, conditions were bound to return to normalcy. The masses and the classes feared Malik Ambar, lived in peace and began to look forward for better days.⁴

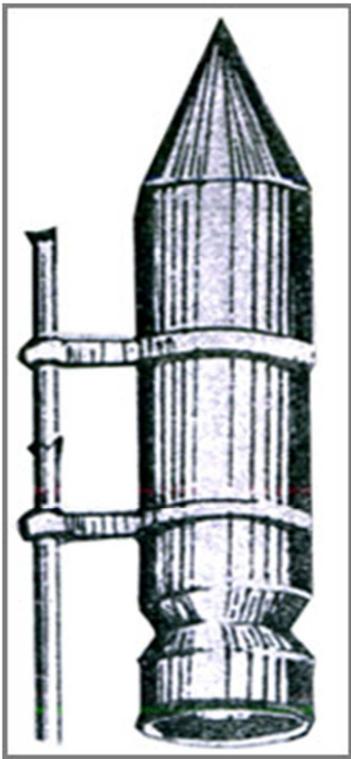
Because of critical situation of in 1610 A.D., Malik Ambar transferred the Nizam Shahi capital from Junnar.⁵ Two causes prompted him to decide upon this action : firstly, with the recapture of Ahmednagar, it became a suitable place for conducting war against the Mughals as it was in the close proximity to the Mughal frontiers and secondly it was well sheltered and fortified to guard a passage from the north-west to the east.⁶

Malik Ambar as Architect of Aurangabad City :

Founder of Aurangabad City :

Under the shadow of the fort of Daultabad, Malik Ambar laid the foundations of a new and well-planned city, Khadaki, which derives its name from the word, 'khadak' meaning a rocky site previously it was known by the name "Rajtadag". The Bhonsles, who rose to prominence during the regime of Malik Ambar, took keen and lively interest in planning and building the new city. Before the battle of Khadaki in 1612 AD.⁷ There

were four localities of the new city. The names of the localities were Malpura, Khelpura, Paraspura and Vithojipura. And he ordered to his engineer Malik Dayar Khan to make the map of the New City, he was instructed to start the construction of Khadaki city it became the center of art literature and commerce. After the defeat of Mughal Prince Akbar, Fateh Khan the son of Malik Ambar conquered Daulatabad and Khadaki city and he replace the name Khadaki to "Fatehnagar".⁸ 1653 Aurangzeb conquered Fatehnagar and make it residence of the emperor and give the new name Aurangabad (Aurangabad means built by the throne)



Pioneer of Rocket Technology :

Mailk Ambar was Pioneer of war Rocket technology first time in the world Malik Ambar was a first king in the in the war against Jahangir the Mughal Emperor of India in the year 1612 AD. The of Britannica (year 1965, Vol. IXX, page 367) using Rockets first time in the war. There was town Shrirang Patnam in 1799 AD. Britishers was totally destroyed due to rockets, and lastly Britishers lost war. Could create there own rockets within three years as equal to the range of Indian rockets. The weight of the Indian rockets were 6 to 12 own rockets in the war in Europe and in America successfully. The encyclopedia gave credit to Tipu Sultan for creating new weapon is Mailk Ambar was Pioneer of war Rocket technology first time in the world who used rockets as a war weapon before 180 years then Tipu Sultan in the war with Emperor Jahangir at Aurangabad. Emperor Jahangir used to write autobiography

where in he had given details about the rockets of Malik Ambar used in the war at Aurangabad. This autography of Jahangir written in Persian language was translated by famous British historian Alexander Roggers (1909 London, "Tuzuke Jahangiri" Volume I, Page 221) It is very clearly noted that Abdullah Khan the Subedar of Jahangir attacked on Malik Ambar but due to heavy fire of rockets by Malik Ambar. The Mughal army head Abdullah Khan got defeated. One of his nobles Zulfiquar Baig lost his leg due to rocket and he died after two days. Malik Ambar also described about the defeat of Jahangir due to war weapon against Mughal Emperor.⁹

Pioneer of First Column Structure Building Bhadkal Gate :

Malik Ambar was very genius, master minded and architect also. After getting victory over Mughal Emperor Jahangir in 1612 AD. he built a massive victory gate at Aurangabad totally based on entirely new technique of ribbed vault system (column structure). He was the first builder who introduce this technique in India. This gate is known as Baharkul Gate (Big Gate) in which eight vertical intersected between each other with beautiful star design at the top. that the same technique was used in the world famous Gol Gumbad (Round Dome) which was constructed at Bijapur as referred by the world famous architect Persy Brown in his book Islamic Architecture in India. This shows that Malik Ambar was the pioneer of column structure architect in India.¹⁰

Water System

The most significant contribution of Malik Ambar to city was a carefully planned water system, which was primarily responsible for the town's development and

popularity. A hillock overlooking the city near Arsul (Harsul) was selected to cut twelve square miles of rock and dug for storing rain water. The depth from ground level is 42 ft. length 9400 ft. breadth -3ft. and height 6 to 10 ft. breadth - 3 ft. and height on natural rock serve as ceiling. At regular intervals 200 to 300 ft. apertures are fabricated for men to alight inside. A hollow socket served as a water gate and was known as Charbumba which was fitted into small twelve inch diameter cavities from where through underground nehars water ran into a wall, popularly known as Gai Mukh... located today near Azad College Guest House. Water reaches Delhi Gate and Shahgunj and through a network of pipes it is supplied to major parts of the city. The principle water courses are fourteen in number. The water supply to Shahganj, Bhadkal Gate, June Bazar Chowk and Gulmandi. This system of water supply was known as "Nehare Ambari" in which rain water was accumulated filtered and supply to the city. This water system was the first of its kind and the last to be created in the entire country.¹¹

Nawkhanda Palace : The most conspicuous structure of both aesthetic and historical value which still exists though in good conditions belonging to Ambar's period is the Nawkhanda Palace. The Navkhanda Palace was built by him in 1616 upon the summit of a rising ground. Once upon a time considered one of the most beautiful palace adorned with gardens and fountains it served for the royal comfort of the Nizam Shah of Ahmednagar.¹²

Jama Masjid, Aurangabad : The Jama Masjid is a mosque built in 1612 AD, located near the Killa Arak in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India. It is historically significant because it was constructed in 1612 AD. Very soon after the foundation of Aurangabad by

Malik Amber in 1618 AD. The mosque was later extended by Aurangzeb in the year 1692 AD, it is one of the oldest mosques of Aurangabad which is still in good condition.¹³

Kala Chabutra : It is huge platform of built with black stones. The Chabutra was built by Malik Ambar for public entertainment and was especially popular for elephant fights. Later its utilization changed and it came to be used for execution or for hanging prisoners. Lastly the Kala Chabutra has been demolished to make way for modern buildings.¹⁴

Other Construction of Malik Ambar :

Aurangabad - Switzerland of Deccan :

Malik Ambar founded Aurangabad city like Switzerland there for historians called Aurangabad the Switzerland.¹⁵

Other construction of Malik Ambar -

- 1) 7 Kali Mosques in Aurangabad
- 2) Chita Khana / Town Hall of the city.
- 3) City safeguard walls
- 4) Markets, Roads, Lakes, Wells, Trees, Saraiye, Tomb etc.

Conclusion :

Malik Ambar was an African because of poor economic conditions of family. He was sold in slave markets i.e. Madina (Saudi Arab), Baghdad (Iraq). In his slavery period

he completed his education, military training and knowledge. He was sold to Mirak Dabir, known as Chengez Khan one of the famous and influential whole of Murtuza Nizam Shah-I of Ahmednagar. Chengez Khan had already a thousand slaves to maintain his strong position at the Nizami Shahi court. Gradually he rose to power within a short time Malik Ambar gained prominence among the other slaves of his master. Due to his intelligence and extraordinary qualities he became the Prime Minister of Nizam Shahi state. In 1610 he transferred Nizam Shahi Capital Junner to Khadki and developed the new city (Today's Aurangabad) with well technology. He constructed first column structure building Bhadkal Gate (Victory Gate) in 1612 A.D., Neher-e-Ambari in which rain water was accumulated, filtered and supplied to the city. This water system was the first of its kind and last to be created in the entire country. He constructed Navkhanda Palace, Jama Masjid, Kala Chabutra for public entertainment, Seven Kali Masjid's, Tombs, Cheeta Khana, Markets etc. Mainly he was the pioneer of "Rocket Technology". He proved himself as soldier, Great Commander, Statesman, diplomat, King Maker, Architect, Founder of Rocket Technology and Prime Minister. All these qualities make him the great.

References :

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- 2) Ibid, p.36
- 3) Ibid, p.40

- 4) Ibid, p.89
- 5) B.G. Tamaskar : The life and work of Malik Ambar : Pub : Idarah-I-Adabiyat-I-Delhi, 2009, Qasimjan street, Delhi, 1978, p. 89.
- 6) Dr. Radhey Shyam : Life and time of Malik Ambar, Pub : Munshiram Manoharlal, 10-B, Netaji Subhash Marg, Delhi-6, 1968, p.90
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- 8) Agha Mirza Baig : Malik Ambar, Sawaneh-Hayat, Arzoo Printers, Juna Bazar, Aurangaba, (M.S.), 1988, p.64
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