



THE POLITICAL ROLE OF ABDULLATIF MIRZA AND HIS SCIENTIFIC AND CREATIVE WORK

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Annotation. *This article examines the childhood of Abdullatif Mirza, his upbringing in Herat, and his rise to the political stage based on historical sources and scientific literature. Issues such as Abdullatif Mirza's accession to the throne of Samarkand, the tragedy of Ulugbek, and the assassination of Abdullatif Mirza are analyzed.*

Key words: *Abdullatif Mirzo, Military training, Khorasan, “double-edged sword”, history, political, socio-economic, Abdulaziz Mirza, Ikhtiyoruddin fortress.*

INTRODUCTION

Significant research has been carried out on the history, political, socio-economic, and cultural life of Amir Temur and the Timurid period. Among them, the name of Abdullatif ibn Muhammad Taragay Mirzo is relatively rare. His personality is controversial, like a “double-edged sword”. Although he is considered guilty of the tragedy of his father, Abdullatif Mirzo also implemented good reforms in the political, economic, and cultural spheres during his short reign. Therefore, a comparative analysis of his personality and the period of his reign is considered one of the most urgent issues. Abdullatif Mirzo was the fourth son of Ulugbek Mirzo and was raised in Herat by his grandmother Gavharshod Beg. Mirzo Ulugbek had an eldest son, Ibadullo

Mirzo, who was born in 1412 and died in 1417. The second son, Abdullah Mirza, was born in 1420 and died in 1433 at the age of 14. The third son, Abdurahman Mirza, was born in 1421 [1].

Materials and Methods. According to the historian Mirkhand, Abdurahman Mirza met his father in 1425 while returning from a campaign in Mongolia. However, this prince also died in his youth, in 1432 at the age of 12 in Samarkand. After these children, the fourth was Abdullatif Mirza, and the fifth child, Abdulaziz Mirza, was born in 1430. In 1437, Abdullatif Mirza's circumcision ceremony was held in Herat. Abdullatif Mirza was raised in Herat with other princes in the court of Shahrukh Mirza. He even participated in the ceremonies of receiving ambassadors from abroad. Mirzo Abdullatif, who was



under the tutelage of Gavharshod Beg, was disturbed by Gavharshod's closeness to Mirzo Aloudawla. Gavharshod Beg wanted Mirzo Ulugbek to become the heir apparent, even though he was his biological son, but he was very jealous of Ulugbek and especially Abdullatif, who was defending his father's interests in Herat. For this reason, he could not accept this [2].

Results. In addition, Shahrukh had a younger son named Muhammad Joqi, who was born in 1402 and was the governor of Balkh, and he could also claim the throne. Shahrukh himself was inclined to name this son as his heir. But Gavharshod Beg, who actually held power in his own hands, did not involve this prince in the affairs of the court, even though he was his mother, and Aloudawla and Abdullatif were more involved in these affairs. From this information, we see that Abdullatif Mirza actively participated in the affairs of the court. As a result, he played a key role in the formation of state administration skills in Abdullatif [3].

In the Timurid dynasty, each prince had to be a ruler with strong potential. According to sources, Timurid princes were engaged in military art, state administration, religious and literary knowledge from a young age. Abdullatif was no exception.

Discussion. Abdullatif grew up in a climate of competition, danger, and political pressure from childhood. This formed determination, suspicion, and sometimes cruelty in his nature. This

environment in the Herat palace also had a direct impact on Abdullatif Mirza's decisions in later life. Because it was his childhood in Herat that determined his worldview, political views, and faith in people. During the period of increasing political tensions in the Timurid empire, Abdullatif Mirza was not only engaged in the military sphere, but also in science [4].

Abdullatif Mirza spent the main years of his life in Herat. Herat served as not only childhood memories for Abdullatif, but also a political school. It was Herat and the knowledge and experience gained there that served as the foundation for his development as a ruler.

Military training also played an important role in the upbringing of princes. They studied martial arts from a young age. This strengthened them not only physically, but also mentally. However, this process can also reduce a person's sensitive feelings. Because constant preparation for a fight hardens a person. It is possible that Abdullatif, having grown up in such an environment, looked at life more from the perspective of a fight. His fighting ability was also recognized by Abdurazzaq Samarkandi. Mirzo Abdullatif always showed enthusiasm for military exercises and military work. During his governorship of the Balkh province, the order of the army and military discipline were raised to a high level. In the unrest that arose after the death of Shahrukh Mirzo, he proved himself to be a courageous and resourceful commander. From the



information given in the source, we can see that Abdullatif was experienced in the military field [5].

Among the princes being raised by his grandmother in Herat, Aloudawla Mirzo was shown his good qualities due to his seniority among the princes and was set as an example, Aloudawla's ideas were largely supported by Gavharshod Begum. This did not please Abdullatif. Mirzo Abdullatif Gavharshod's. Abdullatif had participated in many military campaigns since his youth, served as his father's governor in Khorasan, and considered himself the legitimate heir to the throne. Ulugbek's action was an insult to Abdullatif Mirza. In addition, after the capture of the capital Herat, he did not allow his son Abdullatif Mirza to enter the Ikhtiyoruddin fortress.

However, Shahrukh Mirza had donated the Ikhtiyoruddin fortress to Abdullatif Mirza during his lifetime. Therefore, in 1446, when Abdullatif Mirza was preparing for the Isfahan campaign with his grandfather Shahrukh Mirza, he hid several thousand mithqals of gold and silver items and 200 dunams of money belonging to him in the Ikhtiyoruddin fortress [6].

Khandamir provided information about the treasure that Abdullatif kept in this fortress and its role in Abdullatif's political activities. Mirza Abdullatif, having entered Herat earlier, after the death of Shahrukh Mirza, immediately ordered the capture of the Ikhtiyoruddin fortress. This fortified fortress housed incomparable treasures, gold and silver

vessels, and precious fabrics accumulated since the time of Shahrukh Mirza. Abdullatif took possession of this treasure and distributed part of it as a gift to the troops loyal to him. This event strengthened his military power and increased the soldiers' confidence in him in his subsequent political campaigns. With the funds in the treasury, he had the opportunity to gather new troops and purchase military equipment. So this fortress was very important for Abdullatif. Ulugbek's seizure of the treasure deeply offended Abdullatif. Ulugbek Mirza's behavior towards Abdullatif remains an indelible stain in his heart. In 1449, the nomadic Uzbek khan Abulkhair Khan, taking advantage of Ulugbek Mirza's departure to Khorasan, invaded Maveraunnahr, plundered many villages and cities, and reached Samarkand. Upon hearing this news, Ulugbek Mirza handed over Herat to Abdullatif Mirza and hurriedly set off to save Samarkand at all costs. Ulugbek Mirza took with him the coffin with the body of Shahrukh Mirza and a piece of treasure that Shahrukh Mirza had hidden in the Gavharshod Begum madrasa and set off towards the Amu Darya Kalif Pass. At that time, Abulkhosim Babur was in Sarakhs. He sent Emir Khinduka with a large army after his uncle Ulugbek [7].

Emir Khinduka attacked Ulugbek Mirza's camp at midnight. In this invasion, Ulugbek Mirzo lost many people and wealth. The next morning, Ulugbek Mirzo was attacked by nomadic



Uzbeks while passing through the Kalif Pass. He spent the winter of 1449 with the rest of his army in Bukhara. The coffin was sent to Samarkand and buried in the Gori Amir Mausoleum. After Ulugbek Mirzo crossed the Amu Darya, Abulqasim Babur Mirzo sent a large army from Sarakhs to Herat against Abdullatif Mirzo. Abdullatif Mirzo, unable to withstand the battle, abandoned Herat and went to Balkh. At that time, the Balkh governorate, which was considered Abdullatif's property, was quite large and consisted of several small provinces. They were ruled by wealthy princes belonging to the Timurid dynasty. According to the historian Mirkhand, one of these mirzas, named Mironshah, rebelled against Abdullatif Mirza in the spring of 1449. The rebellion was suppressed and the mirza was executed. Abdullatif Mirza found a letter in Maqtul's pocket. The letter was written by Ulugbek Mirza, allegedly urging the mirza to rebel against Abdullatif Mirza. Naturally, after that, Abdullatif Mirza completely lost trust in his father and embarked on a hostile path. After that, Abdullatif Mirza took over the ships on the banks of the Amu Darya from his father and canceled the stamp tax collected in favor of Ulugbek on his property[8].

Conclusion. According to Abdurazzoq Samarkandiy, there was a long-standing distrust between Ulugbek Mirza and Abdullatif Mirza. After all, both of them were experts in the science of astrology, casting lots based on the astrological chart to determine what fate would unfold in their personal destinies. (In the Middle Ages, people drew lots based on a table showing the position of the planets at the time of a person's birth and predicting the future fate of the person born. There is also controversial information that those who knew and believed that, according to the results of the lot, the tragic fates that would happen in the destinies of father and son would not come from others, but from each other.) Until 1448, Abdullatif Mirza's actions did not show any signs of resistance to his father, Ulugbek Mirza. Abdullatif Mirza began to see the prospect of war against his father. Ulugbek Mirza also had to accept fate and lead an army against his own son Abdullatif Mirza. Ulugbek Mirza left his younger son Abdulaziz Mirza in the capital, Samarkand, and took his nephew and son-in-law Abdullo Mirza (son of the late Ibrahim Mirza) with him, and went to Abdullatif Mirza, who was standing on the banks of the Amu Darya.

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