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**TughlaqDynasty(1320-1413A.D)**

**Muhammad Bin Tughlaq**

Tughlaq Dynasty was established by Ghazi Malik who assumed the throne under the title Of Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. After Alauddin Khalji's death from illness in 1316AD, a series of Arrests and assassinations followed with Khusro Khan coming to power after killing Mubarak Khalji, the son of Alauddin Khalji. However, he lacked the support of the nobles and aristocrats of the Khalji dynasty. Thus, the aristocrats invited Ghazi Malik, then the governor of Punjab under the Khalji's to remove Khusro Khan. In 1320AD Ghazi Malik Launched an attack and killed Khusro Khan to assume power. Hence, the Khalji dynasty was then replaced by a new dynasty known as Tughlaq dynasty. Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq raised the kingdom with his capacity, intelligence and peace and succeeded in restoring peace. He was a wise and liberal ruler. He re-established the food law of Alauddin Khalji, suppressed the revolt in the unfriendly provinces and resorted harmony, law and order. He structured a improved Postal System and encouraged agriculture. But after his mysterious demise his son Jauna Khan succeeded him under the title of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq in 1325AD.

**MuhammadBinTughlaq(1325-1351A.D)**

He was the successor of Ghiyasudd in Tughlaq and the second ruler of Tughlaq dynasty. Tarikh-i-Firozshahi of Ziauddin Barni and Kitab-i-rehla of Ibn-Batutah gives detailed information about the rule of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. Ibn Batutah visited to India from Morocco during his rule in 1333A.D and was appointed as Qazi of Delhi. There are various views of contemporary historians about the personality of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

1. Isami-He called the Sultan as despot and irreligious.
2. Barni-He called him wonder of nature.
3. Eliphinston-A tinge of madness was found in Muhammad Bin Tughlaq
4. Ibn Batutah-He was of the view that the Sultan was always available for helping others.

He was the most educated one among all the Sultans of the Delhi Sultanate. He had deep knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Mathematics, Astrology, Medicine etc. He considered himself as equivalent to the Caliph and entitled himself as Amir-ul-Mominin. Like Balban he too considered himself as shadow of god and engraved Zille-illah on his coins. He did away with the supremacy of the Ulemas and appointed others on the basis of skills. Among all the Sultans of Delhi Sultanate Muhammad Bin Tughlaq's empire extended in the largest area. His empire was divided into 23 provinces. He was the first Sultan to provide high post to the hindu and various people belonging to lower caste. He tried to end up Sati Pratha.

### **Revolts during the reign of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq:**

#### **Revolt of Bahauddin Gurshap:**

It was the first revolt during the time of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. Bahauddin was the cousin of Sultan and was the Iqtedar of Gulbarga. He declared himself as the independent ruler of Gulbarga. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq in 1327A.D sent his army to suppress the revolt. Bahauddin was defeated and punished. Thus, this revolt was successfully suppressed by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

#### **Revolt of Bahram Aiba:**

He was the governor of Multan. Sultan went personally to suppress the revolt and successfully defeated and punished him.

**Revolt of Ghiyasuddin:**

He was the governor of Luckhnauti. Ghiyasuddin declared independence in 1330A.D but was successfully suppressed by the army of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

**Revolt of Malik Fakrruddin:**

He revolted against Muhammad Bin Tughlaq but was successfully suppressed by the governor of Luckhnauti on behalf of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq.

**Revolts in South India:****Revolt in Madura:**

It was the first revolt in South India against Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. It was led by Ehsaan Shah. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq personally went to suppress the revolt but due to epidemic Sultan along with his army had to retreat back.

**Revolt in Vijaynagar:**

Two brothers named Harihara and Bukka established Vijaynagar Empire in 1336A.D in the Southern part of Krishna river. Both of them got arrested by Sultan during Kampil expedition and were converted to Muslim faith. They started working in the army of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. Later they were sent on Deccan expedition on the behalf of Sultan where they converted themselves back from Muslim to Hindu and established Vijaynagar Empire.

After all these victories Muhammad Bin Tughlaq died in 1351A.D during the expedition of Thatta(sindh). Barni and Badayuni in the context of death of Sultan stated that –the ruler spared his subjects and the subjects spared the ruler.

**Religious Policy:**

Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was a religious tolerant ruler. He appointed even hindus on high post. He also celebrated Holi. He also built Dharamshalas for hindu saints. He also provided patronage to the Jain Saints; Jin Prabha Suri, Jambu Ji and Rajshekhar. He also built a hindu temple named Saptgunjay in Palithana(Gujrat). He respected sufi saints and was himself a student of a Sufi Saint named Sheikh Allaudin. He was the first ruler of the Delhi Sultanate to go to the shrine of Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti in Bahraich , still he was considered as irreligious by Isami and Barni.

## **Reforms introduced by Muhammad Bin Tughlaq:**

### **Transfer of capital(1327A.D):**

He replaced his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in 1327. According to Barni, he did so as, Daulatabad was located in center of India. Whereas, Ibn Batutah believed that it was done to punish the citizens of Delhi. Garner Brown was of the view that he did so, in order to keep his empire safe from the invasions of the Mongols. But his reform failed from political point of view and thus, he allowed the people to return to Delhi in 1335-1337A.D. This transfer of capital from Delhi to Daulatabad had an effect in long run and that was a large number of Ulemas and Sufi migrated from Delhi to Daulatabad which led to spread of Sufism and Islamic culture in South India.

### **Introduction of Token currency(1329A.D):**

He was the second ruler after Iltutmish, who brought reform in the coinage system. The aim of introducing Token currency was to equalize the value of the both tanka and jital. He stopped engraving Kalma on his coins. The token currencies bore both Arabic and Persian language. According to Barni Sultan introduced token currencies as he desired to invade numerous states for the extension of his empire and unfortunately the royal treasury was almost empty thus, he needed the wealth for such expeditions. But his reform was a huge failure as these coins were prepared with simple technique, had no complicated designs and there was no government control on its minting. Thus, these coins began to be minted personally by the subjects which led to huge corruption among the people. Hence, Muhammad Bin Tughlaq had to withdraw his policy of token currency.

### **Expedition of Khurasan(1332-1333A.D):**

Barni recognized Khurasan as Iran whereas, Farishtah considered it to be Iran Turan. A few historians considered it to be Trans Oxiana area of Central Asia. This expedition was the result of alliance between the mongol invader Tarmashirin and Muhammad Bin Tughlaq against the contemporary ruler of Khurasan was Abbu Saiid. For this expedition Sultan recruited approximately 3,70,000 people in the army. The army was even provided with advance salary. This expedition resulted in partial victory of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq, as the ruler of Khurasan accepted the subordination of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq and agreed to pay annual tax.

### **Karachil Expedition(1333A.D):**

Right after Khurasan expedition Muhammad Bin Tughlaq attacked on Karachil. The main aim of this expedition was to annex the Kullu Kangra area of Himachal Pradesh. The initial stage of the expedition beared fruitful results but later it turned out to be a failure due to heavy rain and spread of epidemic.

**Taxation in Doab(1334A.D):**

The increase in taxation was done in order to compensate the losses done by reforms of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq. He increased rate of Khara (land tax) upto 50 percent considering Doab to be the most fertile area but due to the continuous famines the farmers were unable to pay such high taxes. This led to huge dissatisfaction among his subjects. Muhammad Bin Tughlaq also encouraged agriculture by establishing a separate department named Diwan-i-Kohi. He also provided loans named Taquabi and Sondhar to the farmers at the time of emergency.

Thus, Muhammad Bin Tughlaq was one among the most peculiar sultans of Delhi sultanat who introduced many unique reforms though most of them turned out to be a failure . Despite facing so many failures he managed to rule of the largest area of empire which consisted of almost 23 provinces. Hence, he can definitely listed among the great ruler of Delhi Sultanat.