

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## 1. TRAVELS OF PEDRO TEIXEIRA.

*Camp Khwaja Ahmad of Sistan.*

June 15, 1903.

I have read with great interest the review on the Travels of Pedro Teixeira in the J.R.A.S. for April last, and the book in question has itself formed part of the small library which I have with me in camp. At p. 188 it is stated that Malik Turan Shah (of Hurmuz) died in A.H. 779 (1378 A.D.), and that he was succeeded in turn by his three sons; the last of whom is called Salgor Xá (Salgur Shah), "in whose time arose in Persia the Suphy Hhalila, of whom we have spoken in the narrative of the Kings of Persia."

This is on page 189. On the following page we are given some details of the invasion of the territories belonging to Salgur Shah (Appendix A).

I give a translation of the account preserved by Sharaf ud din Ali Yazdi, in the Zafarnamah, of the expedition sent by Timur from Shiraz, under the immediate command of his grandson, Prince Muhammad Sultan, to Hurmuz to bring the districts along the coast into subjection to him.

There seems to be a general resemblance between the account taken from the Zafarnamah and that given in Pedro Teixeira's Travels. Timur's expedition took place

in 798 A.H. Turan Shah, from whose account Pedro Teixeira abridged his, and rendered it into Portuguese, died in 779 A.H., so that a period of 19 years intervened between the two events. This period was filled by two full reigns of two princes, Massa'ud and Shihab ud din, and the third Salgur Shah was reigning when his territories were overrun by the invader. There is nothing improbable in this somewhat short period of time being shared by three rulers, or two rulers and a few years (or less) of the reign of the third. And the fact that brother succeeded brother makes it less improbable, as very few years would intervene between their respective ages; and the lack of direct descendants capable of succeeding to the throne argues a period of strife and the decadence of the family of the Princes. The resemblance of the account given in the Travels of Pedro Teixeira on p. 190 in the first and second paragraph to the account given in the Zafarnamah is the point to which I have alluded. The latter can speak for itself:—

“During the period of the five years campaign it has been stated that Amirzáda Muḥammad Sultan, in accordance with the mandate of His Highness, the Lord of Exalted Fortune, had proceeded towards Hurmuz accompanied by a body of officers of high rank.

“The following is the account of this occurrence. When the Prince had set out from Šhiráz, he and his commanders after deliberation agreed upon the (various) routes to be followed by their divisions.

“The Prince himself marched by way of Dárábjird and Tarim.

“Prince Rustam, son of ‘Umr Sheikh Mirza, who commanded the right division of the army in conjunction with Amir Shah Malik, marched to the sea coast by way of Kárzin and Fál. Amir Jallal Hamid, Arghun Shah Akhtáji, Bayán Timur and Begjijik, Jattah, advanced by the route of Jahrum and Lár. On the left flank of the Prince's own Command, Idiku Birlás set out from Kirmán, and having overrun Kech and Makran, obtained much

booty. In this way each division having explored the country they traversed, route by route, they overran and plundered any district where the ruler or the inhabitants were found to be not submissive.

“And when the country around ancient Hurmuz was reached, the troops captured and destroyed the seven fortresses of which the district was famed. First of all, they took the stronghold of Tauq-i-Zindán. Hurrying on, they captured and destroyed the fortress of Koshakak. From this place they advanced against the castle of Šhámil, and, having stormed it, rased it to the ground. Then having arrived at ancient Hurmuz, they took the Fortress of Minā and set fire to it; after which the holds of Minujan, Tarzak, and of Tazián were captured and rendered desolate.

‘From awe of the armies of the Most Fortunate Monarch of  
the Age,  
Dread seized the seven celestial spheres of the Heavens.  
How then could reliance be placed on Hurmuz and its seven  
fortresses  
When that army advanced against them in its might?’

“In short, Muḥammad Shah, the Malik of Hurmuz, who like a fish had made the waters of the ocean his safeguard; and like an eclipse had concealed his face in the rocky islet of Jerun, with the mantle of helplessness . . . sought for quarter. He sent presents of great value and rarities of the sea, and accepted the terms imposed upon him with reference to tribute and political subservience.

‘When the Prince of Hurmuz saw that conflagration,  
It drew the damp of the ocean into his soul (liver).  
He was terrified lest that ocean-emptying monarch,  
Like another Moses, should part the waves of the sea :  
For if each soldier were only to bring his two hands full of  
stones and earth,  
That narrow strait would by these means be filled completely up.

Not only would the waters of Oman prove an insignificant  
obstacle,

But they would pass on, and assail the very constellations of  
Heaven itself.

Therefore, did he not merely enter the portals of submission,  
But performed the part duly with offerings of silver and gold.'

“The annual tribute had been fixed at 300,000 dinars; but for a space of four years he had paid no one a penny of it. He now agreed to make good arrears for those four years; and to liquidate a portion of that obligation, he forthwith despatched ready money, pearls, and fabrics of value, while with respect to the balance he promised to make arrangements to raise the amount and to forward it when ready.”

The name of the ruler is given in the foregoing account as Muḥammad Shah, as against Salgur Shah in Teixeira. But the latter might have been merely a title, while the other was his real name.

There was a “Mahamud Xá” mentioned on page 193. But as he was one of the puppet-kings of Hurmuz, had this expedition of Prince Muḥammad Sultan taken place in his time, the latter would have been in collision with the Portuguese, to say nothing of the difference of dates, which renders such a supposition impossible. The histories of the very minor dynasties, such as the Maliks of Hurmuz and of Sistan, and others, were very incomplete, and names and dates are inserted without much care and attention to their position relatively; names especially are frequently transposed.

Reading the two accounts, I was struck with the resemblance between the account of the subjugation of Hurmuz by Timur's arms, and the trouble alluded to in the Hakluyt Society publication as being due to the rise of the “Sophy Hhalila,” and I venture to draw attention to it in case it may interest anyone else.

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