

Formerly the office of Fanchán was only bestowed on Cathayans, but it is now held also by Mongols, Tájiks, and Ighúrs.

The chief Fanchán is called Su Fanchán, or the Select Fanchan. In our day under the reign of Timúr Kaán the chief of the whole number is Báyan Fanchán,¹ the son of the Sayad Nasíruddin, who was the son of Sayad Ajal, and who bears the same title. The second, Omar Fanchán, is also a Mongol. The third, Iké Fanchán, is an Ighúr. Before him the office was filled by Lájan Fanchán, brother of his Excellency the Su Fanchán; his son is called Karmánah. The fourth Paighamísh Fanchán, whose place was formerly occupied by Timur Fanchán, is an Ighúr.

As the Kaan generally resides at the capital he has erected a place for the sittings of the Great Council, called *Sing*. According to established custom a lieutenant is appointed to the inspection and charge of the doors, and examines all the drafts of memorials² that are presented.

The name of the first tribunal is *In*. All the proceedings are copied and sent with the memorials to the tribunal called *Lúsah*, which is of higher rank than the other. Thence all is carried to the tribunal called *Khalyún*, and thence to the fourth, called *Kuijún*. This is the board which has charge of all that relates to the posts and despatches. The three

¹ The Sayad Ajal, a native of Bokhara, was finance minister to Kublai, and stood high in his favour. He died in 1270. His son Násiruddín was governor of Karajang (*infra*, pp. 269, 273). The grandson here spoken of, Abúbakr, surnamed Bayan Fanchan, was also minister of finance, and was called by his grandfather's title of Sayad Ajal, which was highly respected by the Mongols (*D'Ohsson*, ii, 467, 507-8). At least two other Bayans are notable in the history of Kublai's dynasty. The name *Baian* already appears as that of an Avar chief in the time of the Emperor Justin.

² The original word is here *Balarghúi*, which puzzled Klaproth. It is explained by Pauthier (*Marc Pol*, 331) from Schmidt's Mongol Dictionary, "*Ecrit, Mémoire peu net, avec des ratures ou phrases retranchées.*" He adds that still in China all memorials, etc., for presentation to the emperor or his council, are submitted to particular officers who correct their style.