

at the time of the Uzbek invasion, where he was born. In the time of Muhammad Ali Khán of Khokand, he emigrated to Khujand, and there entered a college to study for the church. After some years he was appointed to the office of Kazi at Karamma, and whilst there married a lady of the place, by whom he had a son named Muhammad Arif. He then removed to Piskat, and there married the mother of Amir Muhammad Yákúb Khán. Muhammad Arif is now residing at Káshghar with the rank of *Tocsabay* in the court of his half-brother. About four years ago he was sent to govern the district of Sarigh Kul, but was soon recalled and has remained unemployed ever since.

The Amir has also two sisters, one of whom was married to Nar Muhammad Khán, the Governor of Tashkand, who then got his brother-in-law appointed to the charge of Akmasjid, with the rank of *Koshbegi*. At this place the Amir married a Kapchak lady of Juelik, and she bore him his eldest son, Beg Kuli Beg, or Beg Bacha, as he is called, in 1265 H.=1848 A.D.

The Amir was brought up in his native village; and instead of following the religious calling of his father, he was led away by the stirring events of the times, and the disordered state of the country, to seek his fortunes at the capital. And there we find him at the age of twenty-five years as a *Mahram* or "court chamberlain," an office of trust, in the service of the youthful Khudayar Khán, on his elevation to the throne of Khokand in 1845 by the Kapchak chief, Musalman Kuli. It was shortly after this that Nar Muhammad, the Kapchak Governor of Tashkand, married his sister, and through his influence with the regent Mussalman Kuli, obtained for the *Mahram* promotion to the rank of *Koshbegi*, or "lord of the family," and the office of Governor at Akmasjid. The *Koshbegi* held this post for five or six years, till the capture of the fort by the Russians in August 1853, and he was soon after appointed *Mír* or "chief" of the Kilaochi fort.

In 1858 his patron, Musalman Kuli, was executed by Khudayar in a very barbarous manner. This act roused the hostility of the Kapchak and Kirghiz against the Khán; and espousing the cause of his elder brother, they drove Khudayar from the country, and set Mullah Khán on the throne at Khokand. Amongst the most active of the supporters of the new Khán was the *Mír* of Kilaochi; and for his services he was raised to the rank of *Shaháwal* or "intendant," and attached to the court. Shortly after, however, he was appointed Governor of the frontier fort of Kuramma, with the rank, once more, of *Koshbegi*. From this, at the end of 1860, he was transferred with Kaná'at Shah, the *Náyb* of Khokand, to Tashkand to watch the Russians who were advancing upon Turkistan. Whilst he was on this frontier, Mullah Khán was assassinated in his bed by a plot of the nobles, and Khudayar hearing the news, at once issued from his retreat at Jizzak, and hastened to secure Tashkand. On arrival there he was welcomed and set on the throne as Khán by the *Koshbegi* and *Náyb*, and for this service Khudayar retained Yákúb Beg in his post as Governor of Kuramma fort.

In the meantime Mullah Alim Kuli, Kirghiz of Osh, had set Shah Murád Khán, grandson of Sher Ali Khán, on the throne at Khokand, and marched with him against Khudayar at Tashkand. On their approach, Yákúb Beg left Khudayar, and, joining Alim Kuli, retired with him to Kuramma, there to equip and organise their forces. From this they set out and besieged Khudayar in Tashkand; but after a month of desultory skirmishing, failing to make any progress, they retreated to Khokand. From this shortly afterwards, Alim Kuli sent Yákúb Beg to hold Khujand, which was threatened by Khudayar and his allies from Bukhára. On their approach, Yákúb Beg surrendered his charge, retired to Bukhára with the returning army, and resided there some time as a *bi* or "noble" attached to the court of the Amir.

In 1863 the Amir Muzaffaruddin of Bukhára marched to Khokand to set his new brother-in-law, Khudayar, on the throne there against the usurper Alim Culi, and Yákúb Beg returned with his army to the scene of his former activity. On the departure of the Bukhára troops, Yákúb Beg and some other leading men joined Alim Kuli who, having executed Sultan Murád, had set up Syad Sultan as Khán. This rival Khán at once restored Yákúb Beg to his former rank and office, and sent him to hold the fort of Kuramma; and shortly afterwards he joined his benefactor with his contingent to aid in the capture of Khujand.