

The new convert Tughsháda, who was appointed Bukhár-Khidát by Kutaiba, in gratitude for the favour, named his first born son after his patron. This Kutaiba bin Tughsháda was in after years executed at Samarcand by Abú Muslim, in the time of Nasr bin Sayyár, the Viceroy of Khurásán, for apostacy and rebellion in joining the insurrection of the Shía against the Sunni, which marked the early rivalry of these great Muhammadan sects in the early period of their progress here. And ten years later, Tughsháda himself, who had always been but a doubtful convert, was assassinated at the instigation of the same Abú Muslim in the presence of Nasr, who was at that time at Samarcand; and the historian records that his servants coming in cut the flesh from the body and carried away the bones to Bukhárá. Nasr Sayyár, at this period, subjugated Farghána, and pushed an expedition across the pass into Káshghar, but without any more stable result than a useful reconnoissance of the country.

Tughsháda, at the time of his death, had reigned 32 years, and was succeeded in the government of Bukhárá by his second son, Sukán, who was assassinated in his palace at Farakhsha by his Arab Wazír on account of his relapse to idolatry and drunken habits. His brother, Banyát, then became Bukhár-Khidát. He joined the rebellion of the *Sufed Jamahgán*—"White clads," the followers of the "Veiled Prophet" or Mucanna, in the time of the Khálif Mahdi, and was captured and slain in his palace at Warkhshi in 166H.=782 A.D.

In that year Abúl 'Abbás was appointed Viceroy of Khurásán by the Khálif Mahdi, the father of the famous Harún Arrashid. He held his Court at the then capital of the province—Marv, and received many complaints of the frequent inroads of the pagan Turk upon the Saghd and Bukhárá lands. They had recently raided Sámún and carried off many of its people into slavery, and a deputation of the Chiefs consequently went to Marv to represent their grievance and seek protection. Abúl 'Abbás consulted them as to the best means of providing against the evil, and on the suggestion of Yazíd bin Ghorak, Malik of Saghd, who said that an ancient Princess of the country had protected her territories from such inroads by a great barrier wall built along the frontier, gave orders for the construction all along the frontier of a defensive wall, with a gate and turret at every half mile. The wall was at once commenced by Amir Muhtahid bin Hamadi, the Governor of Bukhárá, and was finished in 215H.=830 A.D., when Amir Muhammad bin Mansúr was the Governor. It was maintained in repair by the labour of the people till the time of the Amir Ismáil Sámání, who relieved them of the burthen, and the wall then soon fell to neglect and decay.

After the death of Banyát the government of Bukhárá fell to the hands of successive members of the family. The last of the Bukhár-Khidát was Abú Ishák, bin Ibráhim, bin Khálid, bin Banyát, from whom the government passed into the hands of the Sámání family.

The founder of this great family was a Zoroastrian of the village of Sámán, and traced his descent from the celebrated Bahrám Chobín. He had been ousted from the government of Balkh, and sought redress at the hands of the Viceroy of Khurásán, Asad bin 'Abdulla. He restored him to the government on his professing *Islám*, and the Sámání, in proof of his sincerity and gratitude, named his first son after his patron and friend. This Asad had four sons, *viz.*, Núh, Ahmad, Yahyá, and Ilyás, who all subsequently took prominent positions in the government.

When Rafí bin Laith of Sístán seized Samarcand, Hárún Arrashid sent Harithma bin Ayán with an army against him. He failed, however, to recover the city, and Mámún—at this time joining Hárún in Khurásán—called on the sons of Asad to aid his General. They in consequence intervened, and effected a settlement between Rafí and Harithma, and thus pacified Hárún, who feared the loss of all Khurásán.

Shortly after this Hárún died at Tús=Mashhad, and Mámún succeeded as Khálif. He appointed 'Asá bin 'Ubád Viceroy of Khurásán, and bid him provide for the sons of Asad in reward for their good service. Accordingly Núh was made