

Husen (the father of my author), a lad aged twelve years, as companion to Mahmúd; and they grew up together mutual friends as King and Minister. T.R.

In the summer following, Yúnus purposed another attack upon Abábakar for the recovery of Káshghar, but was called to Andiján and settled at Úsh by Umar Shekh, who was again threatened by Ahmad seeking to seize Táshkand and Sháhrukhí, which, since the death of Shekh Jamál, had fallen into his hands as part of Farghána. Yúnus passed the winter at Úsh, and thus prevented war between the quarrelsome brothers; and in spring, leaving Hydar and Muhammad Husen in the government of Úsh, rejoined the Moghol under Mahmúd. On his departure, Umar, jealous and mistrustful of the presence of Hydar, ousted him, and he went with his son as a refugee to Abábakar at Káshghar. Here he detained Muhammad Husen a year, and then sent him to Sultan Mahmúd, son of Abú Sáid, the Governor of Badakhsán, whence he subsequently was invited to rejoin Yúnus, and give him the benefit of the medical skill for which he had obtained a reputation in the country, and nurse him during his last fatal illness.

In the autumn following this, however, Ahmad, taking advantage of the absence of Yúnus, attacked Táshkand, and Umar once more recalling his trusty ally settled him at Syrám for the winter. Whilst here, his second son, Ahmad, hating the restraints of city life, deserted Yúnus, and with a number of his Moghol returned to the freedom of his steppes. His flight was unnoticed owing to the danger threatened by the advance from Samarcand of the other Ahmad, to check whose progress Mahmúd was sent out with thirty thousand men. He was joined in the vicinity of the menaced city by Umar Shekh with fifteen thousand men from Farghána, and they both attacked the enemy. After a few unimportant skirmishes the Khoja Nasíruddín Ubedulla interposed to prevent further hostility between the brethren, and made peace between the three by giving the bone of contention to Yúnus, who now in 890 H.=1484 A.D. became King at Táshkand. As a bond of friendship on assuming the government, he betrothed his son, Mahmúd, to Karákúz, the "black-eyed" daughter of Ahmad; and the belligerents then retired to their respective governments the best of friends.

Yúnus fell sick shortly following this, and, after a lingering illness of two years, died aged seventy-four years. He was the most enlightened, merciful, and just of all the Moghol Kháns, and stands amongst them an unique character for learning, liberality, and piety.

Mahmúd now succeeded to the throne at Táshkand; but the death of Yúnus was the signal for a fresh outbreak of hostilities, and Ahmad and Umar, free from the controlling influence of his superior character, at once renewed a rival contest for its possession. Mahmúd easily repulsed a force sent against him by Umar Shekh, but in the year following Ahmad attacked the city with an overwhelming force of a hundred and fifty thousand men, and would have taken it but for the treachery of his General, Sháhibeg Khán or Shaibán.

This successful adventurer, the founder of the Shaibán dynasty in Máwaránahar, was the son of Sháh Budágh, and grandson of Abúlkhyr. After the death of Búrúj Khán he experienced varied fortunes in Máwaránahar, and finally took service with Ahmad, and was classed amongst his nobles, over all of whom, except only Mír Abdul Alí Tarkhán, he held superior rank. His exalted position—which he maintained with a body-guard of three hundred devoted adherents of his own tribe—and the dislocated state of society at the time, favored the ambitious views of this Uzbek fortune hunter. During his service at Samarcand he had made several friends, and not a few jealous rivals as well, against the machinations of whom his trusty band of countrymen afforded him protection. The present opportunity offered him a chance he did not fail to take advantage of. During the three days' siege of Táshkand, he opened communications, and plotted with Mahmúd to desert Ahmad, and join him with the force under his command.