

been sent out of the way to the Kirghiz, and was now willing to accept the vacant throne under the guidance of Musalmán Culi as his *wazír*. They, consequently, at once marched against Ibráhím Khiyál, and driving him out of Khokand set to work, and in forty days surrounded the city with fortified walls. Sher Ali now established himself in the citadel as Khán of Khokand with Musalmán Culi as *wazír*, and appointed his sons to the principal provincial governments. Thus Khudáyár got Namangán, Sarimsak got Marghinán, and Súfí Beg got Andijan, whilst Mallah Khán remained at court with his father.

T.S.

Meanwhile Ibráhím Khiyál, who had been pursued to Káni Bádám, escaped to Bukhárá, whence Nasrulla once more set out to recover his lost conquests. His grand preparations, fierce threats, and pompous boasts, however, did not avail him; for after a siege of sixty days, in which he lost many men by deaths and desertions, he was obliged to retire from Khokand unsuccessful. But his retreat did not restore peace to the country. The sons of the late Muhammad Ali Khán, whom he had left in prison at Bukhárá, escaped from their durance during his absence on this campaign, and returning to Khokand immediately raised a tumult in favour of their prior rights to the government.

Sher Ali did his utmost to appease them, and appointed Muhammad Karím, the most active and ambitious of them, as *Hudaychi*, or "Chamberlain," in his own court. He at once made use of his position to usurp the rule for himself, and by his overbearing conduct quickly made an enemy of the *wazír*, Musalmán Culi, who carried off Khudáyár, and fled with him to the mountains. There he raised a party of his own Kapchak and the Kirghiz, and descending upon Khokand seized and executed Muhammad Karím with a number of his partizans, and re-established Sher Ali as the Khán, with himself as *wazír* as before.

On this Sarimsak, with the support of Alím Beg and Syad Beg, *Dádkhwáhs*, and a party of Kirghiz, rebelled at Ush or Osh. Musalmán Culi forthwith went against them, and defeating their troops at Mádí, captured and executed Sarimsak. Whilst Musalmán Culi was thus engaged in the east of the province, Murád Khán, son of Alím Khán, had come with aid from Bukhárá to Uthmaní on the west of it, and thence seizing Khokand had killed Sher Ali Khán after he had reigned three years. The Kapchák and Uzbek now combined and set up Khudáyár, aged fifteen years, as Khán with Musalmán Culi as his *wazír*, and recovering Khokand executed Murad Khán after he had ruled only three weeks. Musalmán Culi, the king-maker, now took all the power into his own hands, the youthful Khudáyár being a mere puppet on his accession to the throne in 1845.

In the time of Muhammad Ali Khán, the command of the Akmasjid Fort was given to Muhammad Ali Beg of Marghinán with a garrison of 500 men, and he continued to hold the post under the rule of Khudáyár till he was killed in its defence against the Russians in July 1852. At this time Nar or Nazar Muhammad of Karású near Osh was the Governor of Táshkand for Khudáyár. He had given a sister in marriage to Yákúb Beg of Piskat in the suburbs, and now, through his influence with Musalmán Culi, got his brother-in-law appointed to the charge of the Akmasjid Fort with the rank of *Coshbegí*. Yákúb Beg held the post for a year till its capture by the Russians in August 1853. In the December following his expulsion from Akmasjid, Yákúb Beg set out from Táshkand with Súfí Beg, the brother of Khudáyár Khan, and a force of 600 horse to recover the fort, but they were all put to flight in the very first encounter. In the following April 1854, Khudáyár himself prepared to march against Akmasjid, but was diverted from his purpose by an inopportune attack on his frontier by Nasrulla Khán.

Khudáyár had for long been impatient of the power and control of his *wazír*, and now in 1855, having staved off the hostility of Bukhárá, he determined to get rid of his obnoxious minister; and to this end instigated a number of his nobles