

THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE SELJUKS AND THE TURKIC DYNASTIES IN CENTRAL ASIA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 11TH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the separation of the Seljuks from the Oghuz Yabgu state (766-1055) and settling in the lower reaches of the Syr Darya, as well as the Samonids (865-999), the Karakhanids (840-1212) and the Ghaznavids (977-1186) neighborhood relations and conflicts were highlighted.

Also, the reasons why the Seljuks helped the Samanids' emir Muntesar in the fight against the Karakhanids, but after forming an alliance with the Khagan of the Karakhanids, Nasr Elaqa Khan and then taking part in the campaigns of the governor of Bukhara, Ali Tegin, who separated from the Karakhanids, against the Ghaznavids and the Karakhanids.

After Mahmud of Ghazni (997-1030) tricked Arslan Yabgu (d. 1032) into captivity, the dispersal of the Seljuks and the complex processes that they experienced during this dispersal, were revealed.

In addition, the article mentions that the grandsons of Seljuk (900-1007) Muhammad Tugrul (1040-1062) and Dawud Chaghribey (989-1060) how defeated the huge army of the Ghaznavids' sultan in the battle of Dandanakan and the formation of the Seljuk Sultanate was explained.

KEYWORDS: *Oghuz Yabgu State, Seljuks, Oguzs, Turkmens, Shah Malik, Nasr Elaqa Khan, Muntesar, Arslan Yabgu, Tugrulbey, Dawud Chaghribey, Mahmud Of Ghazni, Ali Tegin, Kutalmish, Mas'ud Ghaznavi, Dandanakan.*

INTRODUCTION

The Seljuk Sultanate was formed as a result of the disintegration of the Oguz Yabgu state, which ruled between the Caspian and Aral Seas for 766-1055 years, and the reunification of the Oguz tribes that separated from it and settled in the regions of Transoxiana, Khorezm and Khorasan. Today we know that the Oghuzs, also known as Turkmens, are the ancestors of the people living in the countries of Uzbekistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, and Turkmenistan through the historical processes from the 11th century to the present. Also, taking into account that the Seljuks and Ottoman dynasties originated from the Oghuzs, it is understood that the Oghuzs were a Turkic nation that played an important role in human history and civilization.

MAIN PART

The Oghuzs lived in the steppes around the Syrdarya and north of it. [3:5]. Seljuk (about 900-1007[17]) belonged to the Qiniq tribe of the Oguzs [5:426; 15:70; 18:133]. According to “Maliknama”, Seljuk was the commander of Yabgu [13:31-65]. Mahmud Kashgari also confirmed that Seljuk was the commander [9:442; 14:478].

According to “Maliknama”, Seljukbey was afraid that the Oghuz Yabgu would kill him due to plot of Yabgu’s wife. As a result, he fled with his soldiers and tribesmen to the outskirts of the city of Jand [2:292-293; 6:236; 16:2]. Thus, some of the Oghuzs living on the Mangishlaq peninsula moved to Jand as a result of internal struggles. Perhaps, in the first quarter of the 10th century, internal conflicts caused the migration of the Oguzs from the cities of Sutkent and Farab to Jand. At the beginning of the 10th century, Jand was under the control of the Oghuz Yabgu, and its inhabitants were Muslims.

In 999, the Samanids state was destroyed by Nasr ibn Ali Elağ Khan (d. 1012-1013) from the Karakhanids, and the family members of the emir were captured [12:254-255]. Abu Ibrahim, one of the sons of the Samani Nuh ibn Mansur, escaped from captivity, went to Khorezm and began to gather his supporters. As a result of successful campaigns against the Karakhanids, Abu Ibrahim came to Bukhara and ascended the throne under the name of Muntasir. But when he heard that Elağ Khan was coming, he returned to Khorasan. As a result of successive defeats, Abu Ibrahim lived with the Oghuzs for a while in order to get help from them in 1001. In the meantime, Oghuz Yabgu accepted Islam and established friendship with Abu Ibrahim Muntasir [4:50]. According to “Maliknama”, at that time the Yabgu was the son of Seljuk, Arslan.

Arslan agreed to help Prince Muntasir. They defeated the Karakhanid’s army in the Kohak region, 7 farsakhs (42 km) from Samarkand [4:50]. As a result, Elağ Khan came to Samarkand from Uzgand. The Oghuzs attacked at night, crushed Elağ Khan’s army and captured his 18 commanders [4:50]. The Oguzs got a lot of booty. This event happened in August 1003. When the Samanids returned, a rumor spread that the Oghuzs wanted to release the captives and apologize to Elağ Khan. As a result, Muntasir with 600 horsemen and 400 foot soldiers separated from the Oghuzs, crossed the frozen Jayhun and returned to Khorasan. The Oghuzs pursued to capture him, but could not cross Jaykhun because the ice began to melt [4:50]. The goal of the Oguzs was only booty. They were afraid of Elağ Khan’s return with more strength, and they tried to make a deal with him by freeing the captives and apologizing.

Abu Ibrahim did not stay long in Omul on the coast of Jayhun because of being afraid of the Oghuzs. After he had been wandering in Khorasan, again entered Transoxiana and defeated the governor of Bukhara in Dabusiya. After this victory, a large force gathered around Abu Ibrahim, among them were the Seljuks, an important group of the Oghuzs. The power of Abu Ibrahim increased with the help of the Oguzs. Elağ Khan raised an army against the Samanids due to the prince of their was getting stronger. In May 1004, in a battle near Samarkand, Elağ Khan was defeated again and retreated. The Oghuzs gained a lot of booty. They separated from Abu Ibrahim and returned to their country. After Elağ Khan had returned to his country, he again gathered soldiers and led an army against Abu Ibrahim. According to Ahmed al-Manini, the Samanids’ prince was defeated in the battle which had happened in Ustrushana. Because most of the Oghuzs, who won a lot of booty in the previous battle, returned to their country. Moreover, at

the beginning of the battle, a 5,000-strong Seljuk military unit led by Abu Hasan Taq, part of Abu Ibrahim's army, went over to the side of the Karakhanids [3:65]. Abu Ibrahim, who left the battlefield, crossed Jayhun on a raft and came to Khorasan. Mahmud of Ghazni, who learned about this, immediately sent an army against Abu Ibrahim. Abu Ibrahim began to collect soldiers and after a long wandering in Khorasan and Transoxiana regions he settled with Arab ibn Buhayj in Khorasan. There he died in the hands of the Arabs due to the conspiracy of a finance administrator named Mohroi (January 1004). After his death, Mahmud of Ghazni and Elaqa Khan could breathe freely.

RESULTS

It is clear from the above that the Oghuzs played an important role in Abu Ibrahim's victory over the Karakhanids. However, since the goal of the Oghuzs was only to get booty, they would go over to the enemy's side at any time.

In 1021, Ali Tegin broke away from the Karakhanids and began to rule independently in Bukhara [6:237; 12:254-255]. At the same time, we know that the Seljuks, under the leadership of Arslan Yabgu, the son of Seljuk, moved south from Jand and settled in the Nur region, 20 farsahs north of Bukhara. The arrival of the Seljuks to Bukhara was not due to cooperation with Ali Tegin, maybe it was dependent on the pressure of Shah Malik.

Subsequently, Ali Tegin and Arslan yabgu have formed a strong alliance. According to O. Pritsak, Ali Tegin conquered Bukhara with the help of Arslan Yabgu [12:256].

In 1025, the Karakhanids and the Ghaznavids formed an alliance against Ali Tegin. Mahmud of Ghazni was not happy with his neighborhood because Ali Tegin organized frequent raids against the Ghaznavids. In 1025, when Mahmud of Ghazni crossed Jayhun and entered the borders of Ali Tegin, also Kadir Khan, the Khagan of the Karakhanids, arrived from Kashgar with his army. Under pressure from two great rulers, Ali Tegin fled to the steppe. His ally Arslan Yabgu did the same. Mahmud of Ghazni invited Arslan Yabghu to his camp. Arslan Yabgu came to his residence with a group of 300 people, considering it an honor to meet the greatest sultan of the era. When Mahmud of Ghazni spoke about the number of Arslan Yabgu's army, he pointed to the bow and three arrows in his hand [3:67-68]. There is no doubt that this was a sign of the Yabgu title.

Mahmud of Ghazni realized that Arslan Yabgu had great power and feared that he would threaten his country. As a result, Mahmud of Ghazni captured Yabgu by trickery. Arslan Yabgu had taken to the Kalinjar fortress near Multan, he imprisoned and remained in this fortress until the end of his life.

Arslan Yabgu was one of the great ancestors of the Seljuks. His two sons are known to us, their names were Qutalmish and Rasul Tegin.

According to Zahir Nishapuri, Qutalmish went to India to free his father [3:68]. After the capture of Arslan Yabgu, Mahmud of Ghazni was not adequately resisted by the Seljuks. Because the Seljuks lacked unity and were afraid of the consequences of resistance. Also, the sons of Arslan Yabgu were not yet adults. Neither they, nor their uncle's sons, could control Oghuzs remaining from Arslan Yabgu. On the contrary, 4,000 Oghuz families, who obeyed to Arslan Yabgu, complained to Mahmud of Ghazni that they were suffering under the control of the Seljuks and

asked him for permission to move to Khorasan. They did not hesitate to say that if they settled in Khorasan, they would be safe and would add strength to the power of the sultan. In the Middle Ages, nomadic tribes were seen as a source of income in Muslim states with settled populations and regular armies. With this goal in mind, Mahmud Ghazni also allowed them to move to Khorasan. As a result, 4,000 Oghuz families settled in the steppes around the cities of Sarakhs, Faraba and Abiward in Khorasan. Their leaders were Yagmur, Bukha, Goktash and Qizilbey [4:67; 6:237; 8:247].

Mahmud of Ghazni's kindness to the Oghuzs caused objections from his vezirs and emirs. For example, The governor of Tus, Arslan Jazib, suggested to Mahmud of Ghazni to cut off the thumbs of the Oghuzs so that they could not shoot from the bow. Surprised by his words, the sultan answered him: "You are cruel" [4:67].

In 1027, when Mahmud of Ghazni returned from his Indian trip, someone complained about Turkmens' aggression against the people of Nisa, Abiward and Faraba. As a result, in 1028, Mahmud of Ghazni ordered Arslan Jazib to attack the Oghuzs. In the battle near the Faraba caravanserai, Arslan won over the Turkmens.

Ibn Esir explained the reason for the aggression of the Oghuzs to the people by the fact that the Ghaznavid officials oppressed the Oghuzs and took away their property [6:237].

The death of Mahmud of Ghazni in 1030 was in favor of the Oghuzs. Because he was a wise ruler who could resist the Oghuzs' threat.

The administration of the state passed to Mahmud of Ghazni's son Mas'ud. Mas'ud recruited Yagmur from the Oghuz beys and agreed to the return of the Oghuzs from Balkan to Khorasan at his request. Later, Mas'ud recruited also Qizil, Goktash and Buka.

According to Gardizi, in 1031, the residents of Sarakhs and Abiward repeatedly complained about the oppression of the Oghuzs. Sultan Mas'ud sent an army under the leadership of Abu Saad Abdus. After the battle of Faraba, the Oghuzs sent their children to Balkan and began to use the tactics of a sudden attack and retreat against the Ghaznavids. Perhaps they were Oghuzs under Yagmur. Because later he was the only one of the Oghuz beys killed in Nishapur.

In 1031, Sultan Mas'ud appointed Tashi Farrash as the governor of Ray and ordered him to capture Yagmur, Qizil, Bukha and Goktashbeys [1:266]. According to Bayhaki and Ibn Esir, Yagmur was killed in Nishapur [1:372, 397; 6:198]. The rest were pardoned for their services in Makran.

Bukha and Goktash continued to serve the Ghaznavids in Ray. Qizilbey and Yagmur's son returned to Balkan [1:402, 404, 433].

The number of Turkmens in Ray was around 3-4 thousand. To distinguish them from the Seljuk Oghuzs, they are also called Iraqi Oghuzs (Turkmens). The Turkmens of Iraq rose up against the Ghaznavids when they found out that Oghuzs of Balkan had taken action in Khorasan to avenge Yagmur [1:372]. Sultan Mas'ud's plan to capture Iraqi Turkmens failed. Because Oghuzs of Balkan occupied Khorasan in 1034 [1:431, 433]. When Mas'ud reached Sarakhs, the Turkmens divided into three groups and retreated towards Balkan, Merv and Faraba. While Mas'ud was in Sarakhs, he received the news that Turkmens in Transoxiana attacked Termiz and Qobadiyan and also killed Bek Tegin, governor of Termiz. Thus, the Oghuzs suppressed the Ghaznavids on

three fronts. The Turkmens who went to Merv clashed with the governor of that place, Anushtegin. The Turkmens were defeated by him and fled to the desert. After 24 turkmens captured in Marv were sent to Mas'ud, they were crushed to death by elephants by his order [1:436, 440].

DISCUSSION

It should be noted separately that after Arslan Yabgu was captured by Mahmud of Ghazni, the unity of the Seljuks was lost. In particular, 4,000 Oghuz families, who were previously subordinate to Arslan Yabgu, did not want to remain under the Seljuks and moved to Khorasan with the consent of Mahmud of Ghazni.

The Seljuks that remained in Transoxiana maintained the friendly relations established by Arslan Yabgu with Ali Tegin [7:259-274; 10:170-178]. In particular, in the battle with Khorezmshah Altintash in Dabusiya in 1032, the Seljuks were in the ranks of Ali Tegin's army [1:34].

After the death of Ali Tegin in 1034, power passed to his commander Qonush. However, enmity arose between this commander and the Seljuks [1:470, 682]. As a result, the Seljuks went from Bukhara to the land of Khorezmshah Harun.

Shah Malik, the ruler of Jand, who heard about the arrival of the Seljuks to Khorezm, went along the desert road with a large army and attacked them in the morning. 7-8 thousand people from the Seljuks were killed and their women and children were captured [1:682]. Those who survived crossed Jayhun and settled in Rabati Namak. Those who came from the Oghuz Yabgu state gathered around the Seljuks, and in a short time their number increased again.

After Harun was assassinated by a minister of the Ghaznavids, the leadership in Khorezm was transferred to his brother Ismail Handan. As a result, in May 1035, the Seljuks left Khorezm and moved to Khorasan. They numbered around 10,000 horsemen and settled in Nisa and drove out the Turkmens and Khorezmians there [1:470]. The reason for the departure of the Seljuks to Khorasan was not only the oppression of Shah Malik and the killing of Harun. That is to say, the inconvenience of their place in Khorezm and the goal of making Khorasan their home without difficulty may have motivated them to move to Khorasan.

Vezer Ahmad ibn Abdussamad, who heard about the arrival of the Seljuks in Khorasan, said: Until now, we have been working with the shepherds (referring to the Turkmens of Iraq), but now there are emirs who will conquer the lands, he was distressed [1:470-471].

Sultan Mas'ud sent 17,000 soldiers, including elephants, under the leadership of Hajib Beidogdu against the Seljuks. On June 29, 1035, the Seljuks defeated the Ghaznavid army near Nisa by ambush, a method widely used in the steppes. In this battle, as always, Dawud Chaghribey showed great courage.

After the battle of Nisa, peace was concluded between the two sides, and Sultan Mas'ud gave Dehistan to Chaghribey, Nisa to Togrulbey, and Faraba to Musa Yabgu [1:481-493; 4:80-81; 6:238].

In the meantime, the Bukha and Qizilbeys from the Iraqi oghuzs occupied Ray, and Goktash occupied Hamadan. They also looted in Qazvin, Urmia (Azerbaijan) and Armenia [6:200]. From

the above information, it can be seen that the Oghuzs were skilled warriors. However, the goal of the Iraqi Oghuzs was only robbery.

In 1036, Sultan Mas'ud sent an army of 15,000 men to repel the attacks of the Seljuks in Khorasan. But the commander of the army, despite his three-year efforts, could not achieve any results, and on the contrary, in May 1038, the Seljuks defeated them at Talhi Ob near Sarakhs. After this victory, the Seljuks agreed that Togrulbey would be their general leader.

A few days later, Tugrulbey, who came to Nishapur, had a drawn bow in his hand and three arrows in his quiver [1:553]. A bow and three arrows were symbols of leadership in the Turkic people. In Nishapur, a khutbah (sermon) was read in the name of Togrulbey, in Marv, in the name of Chaghribey, and in Sarakhs, Musa Yabgu became the governor.

After his emirs were defeated one by one, Sultan Mas'ud headed the army and marched towards Khorasan. After the victory of the Ghaznavids in the Sarakhs desert battle in 1039, the Seljuks stopped battles and began to use the tactics of an ambush against them. Also, the Seljuks seized the wells on the road and tormented the Ghaznavids' army with lack of water. As a result, Sultan Mas'ud, whose army was exhausted, offered peace to the Seljuks in order to reach Herat safely. The Seljuks agreed to a truce, realizing the need for careful preparation to fight against the Ghaznavids, who were superior in terms of numbers and military equipment.

Sultan Mas'ud, after preparing thoroughly in Herat during the summer, marched on the Seljuks and chased them to the Faraba desert. The Seljuks only retreated in order to exhaust the Ghaznavids' army. During this retreat and pursuit, both sides suffered a lot, especially the heavily armed Ghaznavid troops. Even Togrulbey did not take off his armor and boots for days and used his shield instead of a pillow [1:600].

In the meantime, a famine began in Khorasan, and the Ghaznavids' army suffered from lack of food and water, lack of fodder for horses and the attacks of the Seljuks were added to it. Unexpectedly, the Seljuks would attack them in groups, take camels and fabrics as prey and return back. Fear and confusion began among the Seljuks who learned that Sultan Mas'ud had approached Merv. But when Chaghribey pointed out that they could easily defeat the Ghaznavids because their army and horses were exhausted in the desert, the rest also approved his opinion [1:618; 11:36-37].

On May 23, 1040, while the Ghaznavid army was marching towards the Dandanakan fortress in the southwest of Marv, the Seljuks attacked them from four sides. Despite this, the Ghaznavid army reached the fort at noon. Outside the castle, the two sides lined up against each other. The Ghaznavids' army suffered from lack of water. The Seljuks used their traditional fighting style, "qurdus" (jaami karodis), against the Ghaznavids. That is to say, the army fought in groups. A part of the army would fight for a certain time and then turn back and give way to another group. During the Umayyad Caliphate, the Arabs learned this battle tactic from the Byzantines and implemented it [4:86].

During the battle, 370 soldiers from the regular army of the Ghaznavids, made up of Turks, joined the ranks of the Seljuks. As a result of the fierce attack, the ranks of the Ghaznavids' army were broken, the army consisting of Indians, Arabs and Kurds was scattered and only a few commanders and a few Mamluks remained on the battlefield along with Sultan Mas'ud. After a

while, Mas'ud also had to flee. The Seljuks won a great victory. They achieved their goal as a result of five years of hard struggle. As Chaghribey said, now "the whole world" was theirs.

Thus, Tugrulbey sat on the throne and became the governor of Khorasan [1:620-629; 11:34-65]. As a result, in 1040, the Seljuk Sultanate was officially created.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that even after Seljuk and his tribesmen, frightened by the plot of the Oguz Yabgu's wife, came to Jand and settled, they were not free from danger. In pursuit of booty, they helped the Samanids in their fight against Karakhanids Khagan, Nasr Elağ Khan. After their enemy Shah Malik organized a massacre in Jand, the Seljuks moved to Bukhara and they participated in Ali Tegin's campaigns against the Ghaznavids and the Karakhanids, who broke away from the Karakhanids. The saddest thing is that when Mahmud of Ghazni sentenced Arslan Yabgu to captivity by trickery, the unity of the Seljuks was lost, and the Oghuzs dispersed to Transoxiana, Khorasan, Iraq, Balkan and Dehistan.

When the Oghuz Yabgu state fell into disrepair, the Oghuzs from the Caspian and Aral seas flocked to Khorasan and united around the Seljuks. As a result, the power of the Seljuks increased and after defeating the Ghaznavids in the battle of Dandanakan in 1040, it was officially established the Seljuk Sultanate.

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