

The Letters of Amir Haydar: Insights Into the Economic, Political, Spiritual, and Educational Life During the Rule of Bukhara

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Abstract: *This article delves into the correspondence of Bukhari letters dispatched to various destinations by Amir Haydar, a prominent figure of the Mangit dynasty. The examination of these letters sheds light on the intricate social and political dynamics that characterized the 19th-century Bukhara Emirate, offering insights into both the conditions of the populace within the Emirate's domain and the governance practices of the period. Through a careful analysis of these historical documents, readers gain invaluable knowledge about the multifaceted facets encompassing the social, economic, and educational spheres of the Mangit dynasty in Bukhara.*

Keywords: *society, community, religion, spirituality, education, science, manuscript, hospitality, civilization, honor, intelligence, emirate.*

Uzbek nation lies at the crossroads of global civilization, serving as a pivotal hub for trade, scholarly pursuits, and cultural exchanges that have bridged the East and the West for centuries. Our illustrious historical narrative parallels that of ancient Rome, as our enduring homeland has been hailed as the seat of mighty empires and the nurturing grounds for renowned scholars, thinkers, and revered saints. The dual renaissances experienced by our people in the annals of our past have propelled us to the forefront of global advancement, earning us a place among the most progressive and developed nations of the world. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has underscored the significance of this rich heritage, stating: “Let’s think, how did our ancestors reach such great heights? First of all, they raised the flag of enlightenment against ignorance and devoted their intelligence and potential to the deep study and enrichment of scientific achievements created by humanity.

It is necessary to admit that we often treat such a priceless heritage only as a historical monument. We are careless and careless in applying such unparalleled wealth to our practical life. However, such a unique heritage has been given to very few peoples. More than 100,000 rare manuscripts stored in the funds of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences alone are admired by the world. We need to fully understand this fact. The unique and unique scientific and spiritual heritage of our great ancestors should become a living program in constant motion for us. This immortal heritage should always be with us and always give us strength and inspiration. First of all, we need to imbue the national education system with such a spirit”.

In fact, one of the important tasks in the field of studying our history is to thoroughly study such a rich historical, scientific, and spiritual heritage of our people, and to introduce it widely to the world public. Therefore, it is our main task to research any historical sources related to the history of our national statehood and rich culture, collect them and inform our people. At the same time, teaching them that our

great and unique heritage exists and educating the young generation worthy of this historical heritage plays an important role for our future.

The period of Mangit emirs' rule in Bukhara is characterized by a wealth of extremely complex socio-political events. Through the history books and works of other fields written during the years of their reign, we react to that period and comment on historical events. If the authors of these works were among the rulers of Manghit, they gained more originality. For instance, the work "Gulshanul Muluk" ("Gulshan of Kings"), written by Muhammad Ya'qub, the son of Muhammad Daniyolbi, is a creative product of the high and intelligent class of that time. Although "Maktuboti Amir Haydar" is not considered an independent work, it shows the reality of that time in the form of letters sent by Amir Haidar to various officials, intellectuals and high-ranking persons on various issues and problems. He also provided valuable historical information and helped to draw conclusions about them.

A manuscript copy of "Maktuboti Amir Haydar" is stored in the manuscript fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies named after Abu Rayhan Beruni under inventory number AR-5412. In the article, based on this manuscript, we studied the issues described in some of the letters of Amir Haidar from the point of view of historicity.

The above-mentioned manuscript of the work consisted of 276 pages. The work begins directly with letters in the order "Letter 1", "Letter 2", etc., without introductions and traditional introductions. Undoubtedly, the letters were copied from the original, and there is no comment on them. The number of letters is 279. And this emir did not cover all the letters of Haidar. Because although the beginning of letter 180 was marked, the text was not copied. Therefore, there is a basis for the conclusion that there were letters that have not yet been copied.

The first of the letters was sent to Muhammad Hakimbiy, who worked as a devanbeg during the reign of Amir Haydar, and ordered Mirzaqul to appoint a lieutenant.

The second letter has a political meaning in the literal sense. This letter was also sent to Muhammad Hakimbiy, in which it was indicated that he should appoint a dargu to several areas belonging to the Karshi Bekty. It was also mentioned that it is necessary to strengthen the fortress of Punjab, to establish friendly relations with the people there, especially the dignitaries and elders, and to keep the Kenagas people under control. The letter began as follows:

عزت پناه امارت جایگاه معتمد الدوله محمد حکیم بی دیوان بیگی از مراحم پادشاهانه سرافراز گشته بدانیکه حجر و خان آباد و قورغاشیم و ینگی کینت از قدیم تابع قرشی است بوی از قرشی داروغه می مانید قورغان پنجاب را درست کنید خوب گردید فقرای پنجاب بشما آشنایند بار باب و آقسقالش مهربانی کنید و بعضی از ارباب و آقسقالش باید سروپا بدهید سخن خوبتان را گوید در قورغان [1] پنجاب از خردتان ایلغار مانید.

Muhammad Hakimbi Devanbeg, the owner of honor, worthy of a great place in the emirate, the support of the state. Please know that Gajar, Khanabad, Korgoshim, and Yangikent have been dependent on Karshi since ancient times. Assign a doctor from Kashi to these places. Repair the Punjab Fort. Be kind to Punjabis. Show kindness to dignitaries and elders you know. Give some of them sarbols. Do not spare your good words. Deploy an advanced army in the fort of Punjab...

In the rest of the letter, it is written about being aware of kenagas and not leaving them out of control. It was emphasized that Barotbek, who took this matter lightly, should give a warning to the toksab. He was also instructed to keep the emir informed about the situation. The date of the letter was 1215 (1800). It can be understood from the date of this letter that 1800 is the year of Amir Haydar's accession to the throne, and this letter is one of his first letters as a king. From the content of the letter, it was known that the Mangits kept the Kenagas under constant control.

The next letter in "Maktuboti Amir Haydar" appears to have a domestic content, but it also has political aspects. Through this letter we find an example of hospitality in high political circles. The letter consists of an assignment on how to treat high-ranking biys moving to Bukhara:

امارت و عزت پناهان ستوده قدران معتمدان نیازیک بی و حکیم دیوان بیگی مرحام پادشاهانه سرافراز بوده بدانندکه عادل یک برادر امارت پناه دوست یک بی کوچیده بخارای شریف می آیند مومی الیه همراه یک آدم دو خود کوچیده بیایند شماییان مانع نیایید موافق فرمان عالی عمل نمایند السلام علیکم [2/1215]

Translation:

Niyozbek and Hakim Devan Begi are the honorable and trusted people of the Emirate. Please know that Odilbek, the younger brother of Dostbekbi, a respected man of the emirate, is moving to Bukharoy Sharif, full of royal blessings. If he accompanies him and brings one or two people, do not hinder him. Let the case be dealt with according to the order of the Supreme. The date was 1215 (1800).

If you get acquainted with the content of the letters, you can see that they were written on many issues. For example, there were letters expressing the reaction of the state emir to bribery and wrongful levies, which were among the social problems of that time. In the letter number 11, we can see Amir Haydar's reaction to the unjust collection of money from the citizens and the decree he sent. The letter read as follows:

عزت پناه معتمد ستوده قدری محمد حکیم دیوان بیگی از مرحام پادشاهانه سرافراز گشته بدانندکه نظر میراب از فقرا بیوجه پل گرفته میراب مذکور را حبس کرده پل فقرا را گیرانیده بفقرا بدهید موافق امر عالی عمل نمایند خلاف نورزیند سنه 1216 السلام بوده است علیکم

Translation:

Muhammad Hakim Devanbegi, the owner of honor, reliable, high value. Let it be known that Nazar Mirab took money from the citizens without any reason. This mirob should be arrested and the citizens' money should be returned to them. Do things in accordance with the commandment of the Supreme, and do not go against it. The date was 1216 (1801).

Through the letter, we can know that Amir Haidar is aware of the talk among the people, regardless of the region of the country where this incident took place. We can also see that he is aware of the processes taking place in the country, the lives of ordinary people and minor officials. It was also known that the internal politics of the emirate reached the lower levels of society.

In addition, among the letters, there were examples of how the palace was informed about the trade and debt issues between the minor officials. For example, in the 39th letter, an order was sent to the judge to resolve the dispute in the sale of land, and in the 41st letter, an order was received to liquidate the arrears in the yard sale.

We also find information about the emir's attitude to trade issues in the emirate from the letters. In the 48th letter, Amir Haydar asked Mohammad Hakimbiy, who was working as a mehtar at that time, to send a person to Shahrisabz and enter information about the people and merchants there.

Amir Haidar's letters also contain information about the Kenagas, Kipchaks, Chigatai, Mangits, and various other peoples and clans who lived in Central Asia, especially as subjects of the Bukhara Emirate. It was also considered an important source of information about place names, small towns and villages, streams, rivers, professions and positions, military, scientific, and religious titles of that time. For example, in letter 87, Muhammad Hakimbiy devanbeg was reminded that the Kiyikchi community is exempt from taxes. The text of the letter was as follows:

عزت پناه امارت جایگاه دولتخواه معتمدی محمد حکیم بی دیوان بیگی از مرحام خسروانه سرافراز بودید بدانند که قبل ازینهم بشما فرمایش کرده بودیم که جماعه کیکی از وجه سالیغ و قره چریک و آق اویلی معاف باشند باید که حالا هم جماعه مذکوره را از وجه سالیغ و قره چریک و آق اویلی معاف دانسته ازینوجه از آنها چیزی طلب نسازید و اگر سالیغ گفته از آنها چیزی گرفته باشید گردانیده بدهید موافق فرمان عالی عمل نمایند السلام علیکم [3]

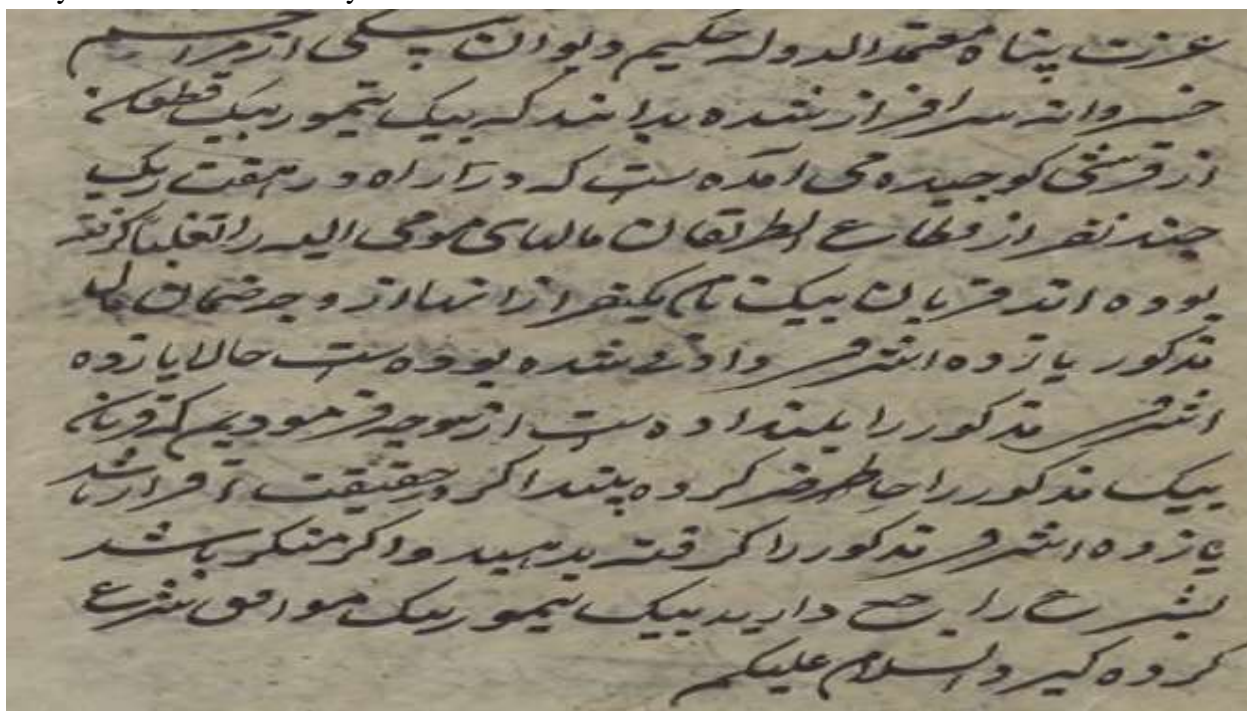
Translation:

"To Muhammad Hakimbi Devanbeg, the owner of honor, worthy of a great place in the emirate, a reliable statesman. Let them know that we have given you an order that the Kiyikchi community should be freed from taxes, karacherik and white house. Even now, knowing that this community is free from

taxes, taxes and white houses, you do not demand anything from them. And if anything was charged as tax, you will pay it back. Let the decree be followed according to the Supreme”.

If the deer community mentioned in this letter is one of the ninety-two clans of the Uzbeks, it is known that there were taxes, karacherik, white houses and various types of levies and punishments.

The letter also contains information about unfortunate events related to officials of the emirate, which allows us to assess the social and moral situation in the emirate. For example, in the 96th letter to Muhammad Hakimbi, it was mentioned that Bek Temurbek, who was moving from Karshi to Bukhara, had forcibly seized his goods. In addition, instructions were given that Kurbanbek wanted to pay 11 gold coins for the stolen goods, to call him and inquire, and if there was a problem, to transfer the case to the treasury and collect the money.



Researching the work “Maktuboti Amir Haydar” is of great importance in the comprehensive study of the history of our nation.

List of references

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