

## **Amir Temur's First Campaign to Khurasan**

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**Abstract:** The article examines the first campaign of Amir Temur to Khurasan based on the analysis of historical sources and scientific literature.

**Keywords:** Amir Temur, Khorasan, Herat, Kalot, Mazandaran, Alibek Jonikurbani Kaloti, Malik Ghiyaziddin, Haji Saifiddin, Balkh, Adhoi, Mironshah, Sarakhs Castle, Malik Muhammad, Sarbadors of Khorasan, Nishapur, Zayniddin Abu Bakr Tayabadi, Ashkilja (Ashkalacha) fortress, Sabzavor, Tus, Abumuslim Marvazi, Khoja Ali Muayyad (Sarbador) Sabzavori, Isfaroyin, Amir Vali.

### **INTRODUCTION**

After establishing a centralized state in Movarounnahr, Amir Temur turned his attention to Khurasan, Iran, and the countries of Old Asia, after eliminating threats from Mughalistan and the Joji tribe in order to protect the borders of this state.

In history, these campaigns of Amir Temur were called three-year, five-year and seven-year campaigns. The goals of these marches were different.

There were factors that accelerated Amir Temur's campaign to Khurasan and Iran. First of all, it should be noted that the internal conflicts caused by the absence of a single centralized state in these regions had a great negative impact on economic and cultural development. Internecine wars in Khurasan were harming the economic ties of Movarounnahr with Iran and East Asia. Therefore, Amir Temur was interested in ensuring security in this part of the Great Silk Road. In addition, the conquest of this territory would also create an opportunity to acquire large resources. Besides, it is clear that one of the last rulers of the Chigatai tribe, Amir Kazaghan, organized several marches in order to subjugate Khurasan [11: 47]. It can be seen that Temur tried to continue the policy of the previous rulers of the Chigatai ulus.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

As we mentioned above, Amir Temur, who continued the policy of Emir Kazaghan in the matter of Khurasan, invited the rulers of Khurasan to the kurultay held in Samarkand in the spring of 1380. It was the official announcement of the ruler of Movarounnahr that he had decided to bring the territories of Khurasan under his rule.

Kalot chief Alibek Jonikurbani came to this kurultay along with other regional chiefs of Khorasan, but the governor of Herat, Ghiyaziddin, sent a reply saying that he could not come with other excuses, saying, "Until Haji Saifiddin comes, my finger is excused" [2: 124] he answered with his tongue, but there was fear in his heart. In the winter of 1380 (January-

February), Amir Sahibkiran sent Haji Saifuddin to Malik Ghiyasiddin to confirm the document about the kurultay.

Malik Ghiyaziddin received the ambassador with honor and kept him in his presence, but he himself began to see the hesitation of war. He did things like strengthening the walls of the castle, collecting food supplies, and arming his troops. When Haji Sayfiddin Malik understood the noble purpose of Ghiyaziddin, he left the city without asking his permission and informed Amir Temur about the reality [10: 65].

Amir Temur welcomed Alibek Jonikurbani who came to Kuriltay with honor. He did not even remember the crimes he had committed (referring to the events that took place in 1362). He asked for his daughter in marriage to Prince Mohammad Sultan and held a wedding for several days. Alibek rode horses and dressed in royal clothes. He consulted with him about the Khorasan campaign. Alibek said that his preparations for the Herat campaign would be completed in the spring months. He followed Alibek with respect.

First, in April 1380, Amir Temur ordered his son Mironshah to lead fifty troops and army commanders to go and settle in Khurasan region. He appointed his son as his deputy in Khurasan. Amirzada went to Balkh and Andhoi region and settled [5: 89, 2: 124, 3: 112].

When Malik Ghiyaziddin's noble goal became known, Amir Temur ordered Mironshah to go to Herat with an army to the territory of Badghis in the fall of this year and loot and plunder most of the region [2: 124]. Mironshah returned from this campaign with a big booty.

When the agreed time came, in the spring of 1381, the men sent by Alibek Jonikurbani arrived at Amir Temur and conveyed the news that Alibek would participate in the Khurasan campaign and join his tribe on the banks of the Murgob river on the appointed day and be in front of the army as the leader of Amir Temur's troops. Amir Temur quickly sent them behind and began to prepare for the conquest of Khurasan himself (in February 1380).

After crossing Omuya water and reaching Jigdolik region, he sent a messenger to Alibek and ordered him to come quickly. Alibek did not come, giving various excuses that he could not go, betraying his promise. Moreover, he did not allow the sent ambassador to return.

Malik Muhammad, the brother of Malik Ghiyasiddin, ruled in Sarakhs fortress. After hearing about the arrival of Amir Timur, Malik Muhammad came to him and received their favor [5: 89]. Sarakhs was captured without a fight.

According to Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi, Nishapur, belonging to the Sarbadars of Khurasan, was also taken over by Malik Ghiyasiddin during this period. Amir Temur walked towards Jam and Qavsiya. These territories did not belong to Malik Ghiyasiddin. When he reached Qavsiya, Pahlavon Mahdi, one of the nobles of this land, took the lead. Sahibqiran liked Mahdi, he was on good terms with him, and he did not cause any harm to the people of this land. Jam and Qavsiya were also subdued without a fight.

Sahibqiran went to mavlana Zainiddin Abu Bakr Tayabadi and attended his conversation. He took their prayers and set out for Herat.

Amir Temur began his Khurasan (Hirat) campaign by besieging Fushanj (Poshang). It was not in vain that the march began from this fortress. First, Fushanj was the strongest among the fortresses of Khurasan, and secondly, according to the information given by Nizamiddin Shami, the information reached the ruler that the inhabitants of this fortress were preparing hard for the attack [3: 113]. It is not surprising that Amir Temur turned his attention to this direction. Preparations were made for three days, and on the fourth day the attack began. Since it was the first attack in the Khurasan campaign, the emirs and princes were ordered to act with courage. Everyone attacked from where they stood. During this siege, Amir Temur himself came very close to the city gate, standing side by side with the Bahadirs. Even two arrows hit Amir Temur's

shield, but he ignored it. As a result of these actions, the fortress, which was as strong as iron, was conquered very quickly [2: 124].

Hearing this news, Malik Ghiyasiddin panicked. After the capture of Fushanj, Amir Timur turned his attention to Herat. After arriving here, they prepared the battlefield. On Wednesday, the battle began. Although Malik Ghiyasiddin knew that it would be difficult to fight with Amir Timur, he directed a large part of his army towards the enemy. Amir Timur's troops retreated by trick and took Ghiyasiddin's army out of the garden streets, and then defeated them with one attack.

Amir Timur built a camp as usual and settled down. Malik Ghiyasiddin made a plan to defeat him with a trick and started an attack in the dark of night, thinking that the army was sleeping, but his action was met by Amir Timur's army as if he was in an ambush. Ghiyasiddin's plan did not work this time either.

There was no battle in the middle on Thursday. Before the attack on Friday, Amir Timur personally appeared in front of the troops and encouraged them. On this day, the army entered the battle with more zeal than ever. The troops climbed the wall from all sides of the fortress, the gate of the city was broken and entered. Ghiyasiddin hid in the inner fortress. According to Natanzi, 10,000 people captured about 2,000 people according to Shami and Yazdi, and brought them to His Holiness. Amir Timur released the captives saying that they would not participate in the war, and if they did, they would be punished after the capture of the city. When they returned to the city, they took away their clans and loved ones. No matter how much Malik Ghiyasiddin tried, the city residents did not support him.

The next day, at sunrise, Malik Ghiyasiddin brought out his eldest son Mir Moghul (given this name in Pir Muhammadni-Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi [5: 91]) together with Pahlavon Iskandar Shaikhi. Amir Timur honored them. Pahlavon took Iskandar to the presence of Malik Ghiyasiddin and his son, and ordered him to convey the following words to his father: "Send our greetings to the Malik that there was no enmity between us from long ago, on the contrary, friendly relations were stable and strengthened by kinship. The incident happened due to the demands of property affairs and celestial events. Now, do not hesitate and come to our side immediately, so that the rules (of our friendship) will be preserved and even strengthened." Malik Ghiyasiddin was still not calm, and after three days he went to the state asylum in Bagi Zagon wearing the clothes of repentance. Amir Timur pardoned him and placed him among his amirs. Malik Ghiyasiddin had another fort. It was extremely thorough and robust. Another of his sons, Amir Ghuri, was in charge of this fortress. Malik Ghiyasiddin said that he would give Ashkilja (Ashkalacha) fort if they accepted. His Holiness granted his request. Malik Ghiyasiddin accompanied a group to the fortress wall and brought out his son Amir Ghurii, who was the governor of the city, and surrendered the city [2: 127]. He managed to bring Amir Ghuri to Amir Timur and bow down.

Maulana Nizamiddin, like his son Qutbiddin, sent the scholars of the city to Shahrissabz along with two hundred Kakhudos. The gates of the city were made of iron and decorated with very beautiful designs. Ordered these gates to be sent to Kesh. These events: The capture of Herat took place in April 1381.

After that, Amir Timur Jahanshah (Bahadir) appointed Barlos as mangloy to Mazandaran, according to Natanzi [2: 127] according to Nizamiddin Shami, to Sabzavor [3: 116] according to Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi to Nishapur [5: 92]. He himself followed him to Tus and Kalot. The reason for this was the incident with Alibek Jonikurbani Kaloti. They stopped at Se Tarozi Rayhan where Abumuslim Marvazi was buried and visited that place. Alibek Jonikurbani Kaloti came to the state asylum, not knowing what to do in the prison of fear. Amir was able to ask forgiveness from Timur and bow down. In the meantime, Khwaja Ali Muayyad (Sarbador) Sabzavari, who was always loyal and benevolent, also came to bow in the presence of the ruler. Amir Timur showed them respect, gave them belts and swords, and dressed them in royal

clothes. Ali Muayyad Sabzavari's sect was Shia, so Amir Temur asked about his faith and sect. He replied, "People follow the religion of their kings. My sect is the sect of Amir Temur," he answered. Hearing this answer, Amir Temur praised him. He sent both of them towards Isfaroyin's castle. He himself went in this direction.

The chieftains of the castle, appointed by Isfarayin's Amir Vali (the ruler of Mozandaran), began to prepare for battle. Before even a third of the army had arrived, a group of citizens and nobles attacked the fortress, and in the blink of an eye, Isfarayin was occupied [2: 127]. Amir Temur sent a messenger to Amir Vali and promised that if he disobeyed he would be punished and if he obeyed he would be rewarded. Amir Vali, expressed his submission, and told the messenger that he would follow him to bow down. According to the information given by Natanzi, when Amir Vali learned about the arrival of Amir Temur's troops, he sent Amir Haji, the viceroy of his possessions, to the ruler's perspective with countless gifts and promised to follow him after Amir Temur returned to Samarkand. Amir Temur learned the truth of his lies and turned his reins back. He returned the rulers of Khurasan to their possessions. Amir Sheikh Sabzavori fled before the conquest of Khurasan and came to Amir Temur, who appointed him as the head of Sabzavor. He appointed Tobon Bahadur directly to him [5: 93].

After a few days in the pastures, after the horses of the armies became strong, he ordered the governors of the regions to return to their lands and returned to Samarkand. He gave a lot of charity and donations in Samarkand. When winter came, he went to Bukhara to spend the winter and ruled the country from there. In this way, Amir Temur's first campaign to Khurasan ended [2: 127].]

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we can mention that Amir Temur's first campaign to Khorasan is distinguished by its own aspects. First of all, the states that exist here are not finished. At the end of the march, all the rulers who ruled in Khorasan were given back their property, and they were only obliged to obey the state of Amir Temur, pay taxes and other obligations.

Second, no harm was done to the rulers and territories that obeyed.

From the point of view of the situation, only three Malik Ghiyasiddin march against Herat march to Fushanj fort and Herat city, Mozondaran march against Amir Vali to Isfaroyin fort. If Malik Ghiyasiddin and Amir Vali had submitted their obedience to Amir Temur in time, it would have been possible to prevent the march to these fortresses and cities.

We can also see that these marches are not intended for financial gain. Because most cities and fortresses were not touched at all. We don't see cases of wealth gain and looting of cities either.

Efforts were also made not to harm civilians during the war. We can cite as an example the release of about 2,000 people captured in the city of Herat.

One of the main goals is to unify this area under a single flag and through this; putting an end to mutual wars and establishing peace in the region, establishing trade, ensuring the safety of caravans, and in a certain sense the interests of the ordinary people who were suffering.

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