

JANJŪ'AS IN HAZĀRĀ

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Hazārā before 1901 had three plains called Pakhal, Rush and Chach. With the establishment of NWFP in 1901, major part of Chach plain is under Panjab which stretches from Attock Khurd to an important village Ghaughashtī. In the neighbourhood of the latter, NWFP is marked with villages Shaikh Chūr, Nagharchī and Miān Dherī. Historic inferences, which follow, record the settlement of some of the Janjū'a ethnic group in Tanāwal under Hazārā and the Chach plain.

The settlement of Janjū'as in Hazārā is a branch of Rājā Mal's hegemony (1166–1180 A.D.). Their settlement thus needs in the first instance the introduction of Rājā Mal whose progeny partly spread to Hazārā.

Rājā Mal, a well known Janjū'a Chief, migrated from Mandū fort in the Sivālik hills to Kuh-i Jūd and settled at Rājgarh, which was later known as Malot.¹

As the Sivālik hills were the refuge place of the fugitive Janjū'a-Hindū Shāhī princes, driven thither by Sulṭān Maḥmūd Ghaznavī, it is probable that Rājā Mal was a scion of the remnants of the erstwhile ruling elite. When he got an opportunity to rule the domain of his ancestors, he came over there and asserted himself in forming a state, which as it seems by Bābur's time "lay between the Jhelum and the Indus."²

Rājā Mal left five sons, two of them Rājā Jodh and Rājā Wīr born of a Gakkhar Rānī, remained in Kuh-i Jūd, whereas the remaining three were Rājā Tanāwalī, Rājā Kālā Khān and Rājā Kahkū, born of a Rājput princess. The latter two shifted to Puthwār (Rāwalpindī) and Rājā Tanāwal went to Hazārā to look after their appanages.³

Concerning an historic data during Akbar's reign, Darband was the headquarters of Tanāwal in Hazārā, and was inhabited by Janjū'as. The chief of the Janjū'as was to pay "revenue 3,100,000 in money" to the Mughal emperor, and was to maintain "cavalry 20, Infantry 500 (of Janjū'as)".⁴ This inference bespeaks that Tanāwal assumed its name after Rājā Tanāwalī, and his progeny became known Tanāwalīs. In view of afore-said starting point inference, the statement of the *Gazetteer of North West Frontier Province*⁵ that the Tanāwalīs, a tribe of Mughal descent, is not correct.

The historic geography of Tanāwal till the end of the 19th century is as under:

"A tract of mountainous territory in the extreme north-west corner of Hazārā District, North-West Frontier Province, lying on the east of the Indus, between 34° 15' and 34° 23' N and 72° 52' and 73° 10' E. The Siran river flows through it from north to south."⁶ The present

1 Hussain Khan, "Kuh-i Jud and the Janjuas", *Journal of Central Asia*, Vol. III, No. 1, July, 1990, 78.

2 *Baburnama*, Eng. trans., S.A. Bereridge London, 1922), II, p. 379.

3 *Journal of Central Asia*, Vol. XIII, No. 1, July, 1990, 79.

4 Abu'l Fazl Allami, *Ain-i Akbari*, Eng. trans., H.S. Jarrett and edited by Sir Jadu-nath Sarkar (Delhi reprint, 1978), II, p. 327.

5 *The Gazetteer of North-West Frontier Province*, 138.

6 *Ibid.*

Tanāwal State also known as Amb-Darband after its twin capitals, under its founder Rājā Tanāwalī had extended its tentacles across the Indus to Buner in Swāt and Bajāur in Dīr, and coins under his rule spread over these area.⁷ During Akbar's reign, Tanāwal was overrun by the Yusūfzais, and it is still partly peopled by the Afghāns, but it became nominally a dependency of Kashmīr under the Durrānis. Its real rulers are "divided into two steps, the Pul-al and Hando-al or Hind-wāl. The former held the tract east of the Siran; and its chief founded Bir when the Mughal power was decaying, but internal dissensions led to the intervention of Kashmir. Meanwhile, the Hind-wāl sept had gained power and its chief Nawāb Khān defied the Durrānis, but met his death at the hands of Sardār 'Azīm Khān in 1818. His son, Pāinda Khān, played a considerable part in the history of his time and vigorously opposed the Sikhs, but lost all his territory except the tract round Amb. On his death in 1840 his son, Jahāndād Khān recovered part of it through the favour of Gulāb Singh of Kashmīr and the British Government. Thus the present semi-independent estate comprises the territory formerly held by the Hind-wāl Tanāwalīs. It has an area of 204 square miles, with a population (1901) of 31,622. It is bounded on the north by the Black Mountain, on the west by the Indus, on the south by the Harīpūr and Abbottabad *tehsils*, and on the east by the Mānsehrā *tehsil* of Hazārā District."⁸

Chach

As regards the presence of Janjū'as in Chach during the 17th century A.D., the Mughal emperor Nūr al-din Jahāngīr mentions a large predatory band of Jānuwanas (Janjū'as) as far as the Chach plain near Attock.⁹ This historic inference denotes that Janjū'as settled in Chach plain, and from their nature as "predatory band of Jānuwanas (Janjū'as)", they appear to be unruly in the plain of Chach. As the State of Tanāwal is in the north east neighbourhood of Chach, basis on hypothesis, the predatory band of Jānuwanas (Janjū'as) could have spread from Tanāwal.

As counterpoise to the predatory band of Jānuwanas (Janjū'as), the Mughals appear to have appointed a Janjū'a in their service in Shamsābād, an important village of the Mughals' strength in Chach which is known as under.

The present day Mughals have been living in the village on its western side since the Mughals' hegemony, and their locality is known as *Sarāī* which carried the historic name of sojourn for travellers. And archaeological evidence shows the existence of an important well having the signs of a staircase which had a stable for horses till the last quarter of the 19th century.

The first Janjū'a who settled in Shamsābād is known by the name of Dasbandī or Daśvandī. This name appears to be a derivative from Sanskrit word Dasbandha which means one tenth. This was tax or cess variously explained as (a) one tenth of the revenue set apart for repair to the tanks and wells for irrigation purposes; (b) land, the income from which would be equal to the amount thus set apart; (c) the right of collecting one tenth of the produce of land irrigated from the water of a tank or well.¹⁰

7 Raja Muhammad Anwar Khan Janjua, *Tarikh-i Janjua* (Khanewal, 1982), 267.

8 *The Gazetteer of North-West Frontier Province*, 138.

9 *Punjab District Gazetteers*, Volume XXVII, *Jhelum District*, with Maps, 1904, 93.

10 D.C. Sircar, *Indian Epigraphical Glossary* (Delhi, 1966), 84.

The Janjū'a then in Shamsābād was known by the name of his office, and his original name is not known. Tradition in the Janjū'a family of Shamsābād shows that he hailed from Siālkot. The progeny of Dasbandī or Daśvandī had enough land in Shamsābād till the end of the 19th century. Some of their land had come under military cantonment near Tājik-Rangoon in Chach in the last quarter of the 19th century. They had also abandoned bulk of their land owing to land revenue.