



ANCESTRY OF BAVADA PRINCELY STATE

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Abstract:

Chatrapati Shivaji carved his own empire in 17th century. As stated by Lord Elphinstone it was brave and successful attempt of Shivaji to build his own empire in political turmoil existing during that period. In this endeavor Shivaji was able to secure more important support of many brave soldiers as well as of well trained and budding bureaucrats of that age. It was Shivaji's motivation and leadership quality which helped him to carve such a independent state out of powerful states surrounded to his own jahgir. Ramchandrapant Amatya was one of Shivaji's trusted bureaucrat who render invaluable service to Maratha empire and Shivaji.

KEY WORDS:

historical documents commencing , society , political turmoil .

INTRODUCTION-

It was Ramachandarapant's ability which entrusted him ministry of secretariat among chosen few council of ministers more precisely out of eight. Ramchandrapant was intelligent, with great energy and enthusiasm as well as trustworthy enough to secure important position in royal family. Even after demise of Shivaji he secure important portfolio in administrative and diplomatic affairs of Maratha Empire. This in turn his portfolio of secretariat affairs remain with him even during period of Sambahaji.. Therefore it is imperative to study the contribution made by Ramchandrapant and his family in building and expanding Maratha Empire.

RAMCHANDRAPANT'S ANCESTRY

It is evident from historical documents commencing from 15th Century onwards. His ancestors' were influential in his village due to their higher status in the society being

a Brahmin as well as the provincial Vatandari i.e. Deshmuki of their region was vested with his family. Ramchandrapant's ancestors were residing at village Bhadane in Kalyan province bearing surname Bhadnekar during 15th Century. His two ancestors namely Naropant and Kalopant were living in joint family as existing tradition of that time well mentioned by historian Gore. Though Naropant was industrious personality of his age very meager information is at our disposal about his achievements through historical records. The sons of Somajipant of this family namely Nikojipant and Abajipant were appointed as royal officers in royal secretariat. From very young age Nilojipant accompanied Shivaji in administrative affairs and he was promoted to higher status in bureaucracy. His brother Abajipant also secured prestigious position in bureaucracy in Shivaji's court. By virtue of his achievements and career advancement he was appointed as provincial head of Kalyan. After Afzal Khan's assassination by Shivaji the responsibility of Kalyan Bhivandi was entrusted with Abaji Sondeo. Thus it is evident that Nilopant was industrious personality and proved great achiever for Maratha Empire. He accompanied Shivaji during Shivaji expedition of Surat sack in the year 1664. Nilopant the able industrious person of this family was entrusted the duty of royal and administrative affairs during Shivaji's visit at Agra along with Moropant Pingle and Annaji Datto. While assessing the work of Nilopant his son Ramchandrapant was assigned duty of account officer of fort Sindhudurg. While rendering great service to Maratha empire Nilpant died in 1672.

RAMCHANDRAPANT AMATYA.

The great administrator of Shivaji Nilopant has two sons Naropant and Ramchandrapant. There is no trustworthy proof of birthdates available of these two brothers in historical records. However, attempts were made by historian to ascertain the birth dates of these two brothers. No one is able to ascertain the birth date of Naropant. However, historians are unanimous to fix 1650 as birth year of Ramchandrapant Amatya. Ramchandrapant was entrusted the ministry of secretariat head at the time of Shivaji's coronation by virtue of his ability and achievements. He secured this position from 1672 to 1677. Even, after assassination of Sambhaji Ramchandrapant Amatya was entrusted with this portfolio. Prince Shau and queen Yesubai were Mughal captives and the affairs of whole royal administration fall up on Ramchandrapant Amatya. After assassination of Sambhaji Rajaram became the king of Maratha Empire. At this juncture to secure safety shelter from the ravages of Mughal Sambhaji went to Jinji. The whole affairs of royal administration fall up on Ramchandrapant Amatya. Ramchandrapant's this authority being delegation of all royal power is aptly called as chief executor i.e. Hukmatpanha was well executed by him. Ramchandrapant Amatya was entrusted with responsibility of defense of Maratha empire and even to guide as well as order to Chatrapati. Ramchandrapant's order were to be abide by even Rajaram was decided in the meeting of diplomats' of Maratha Empire. The power and authority as Hukmatpanah vested in Ramchandrapant Amatya used very responsibly with due respect to Chhatrapati Rajaram. He dispensed his duties with proper guidance of Rajaram Maharaj. After the death of Rajaram, Ramchandrapant Amatya wrote letters to commanders for safeguarding the Maratha Empire. All commanders responded with good spirit to Ramchandrapant's request. As there was struggle for Maratha power within royal family of Shivaji after death of Rajaram between Tarabai and Shau, Ramchandrapant Amatya opined Shau is legal heir of Maratha Empire. Tarabai differed to this view of Ramchandrapant Amatya. Therefore she, coronated her son to throne and took charge of

all state affairs with her. However, Ramchandrapant Amatya did not deviated from Tarabai and discharge his duties with all responsibilities. Ramchandrapant Amatya by default and with his inability remain in Tarabai's party. However, it was only Ramchandrapant's advice that Tarabai confined her sphere of influence to Kolhapur only. Year 1714 witnessed Kolhapur revolution with Sambhaji the second son of Rajaram of queen Rajasbai as Chhatrapati. Ramchandrapant Amatya was handler of this revolution. Ramchandrapant Amatya acted as chief adviser to Sambhaji during 1714 to 1716.

Ramchandrapant Amatya rendered his valuable service as chief bureaucrat for Maratha empire for 45 years during 1672 to 1716. He was the best diplomat and bureaucrat of his age. He died on 8th February 1716 on Panhal fort. His mausoleum still exist at fort Panhala.

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