



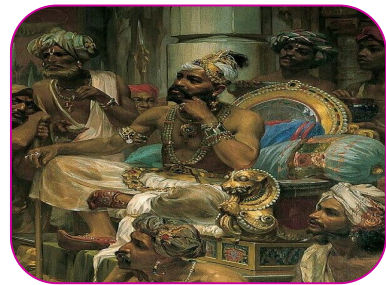
DECLINING HOUSEHOLD OF ZAMORIN- A HISTORICAL STUDY

Vincy C. K.

Assistant Professor, Department Of History, Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, Kerala, India.

ABSTRACT

The period from 1400 to 1700AD was the prosperous period of Zamorins. The rulers of this kingdom enjoyed much prosperity of its maritime trade and consolidated considerable political authority and power throughout the middle ages in the history of Kerala. The Zamorins of Calicut, its rulers were known for their hospitality, religious, tolerance and patronage. Naturally this ruling house became popular among Abyssinians, and Egyptians. In the medieval period Calicut became the central power in northern and Central Kerala. Its rulers were known in history as the Zamorins who were the most cultured and accomplished sovereigns of Kerala. The Zamorins were descended from the Ernad Utaiyavar who appears as a signatory in the Jewish and Syrian copper plates. The traditional version regarding the rise of Calicut under the Zamorins is given in the Keralolpathi.



KEY WORDS: *Jewish and Syrian copper plates , Abyssinians and Egyptians.*

INTRODUCTION:

The kingdom of Calicut also came to be known as Nediyruppu Swarupam. Under the patronage of Zamorins, Calicut developed before long into a major sea port on the Kerala coast. The Arabs and the Chinese were among the most important of the foreign national who traded with Calicut. In the commercial rivalry between the two foreign nations the Zamorin's sympathy lay with the Arabs. He gave the Arab merchants special concessions which helped them to secure the monopoly of the export and import trade of Calicut. It was the brisk trade, which strengthened the political ambition to conquer neighboring kingdoms and expand his empire. Impelled by considerations of enlightened self-interest the Arabs also helped the Zamorin with ships, horses, and soldiers in his wars with the neighboring chieftains. With Calicut as the base the Zamorin embarked on a series of campaigns to bring the neighboring principalities under his suzerainty. The rajas of Beypore, Parappanadu and Vettathe were among the earliest to acknowledge his suzerainty. Their example was followed by the rajas of Kurumbranad and other local chieftains.

ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

The most powerful adversary whom the Zamorin had to conduct against the early phase of his conquests was the Valluvanad in south Malabar. The immediate aim of the Zamorin was the conquest of Thirunavai situated on the banks of the Bharatappuzha in the territory of Valluvanad ruler. In embarking on his campaigns against Valluvanad the Zamorins aim was to secure for himself

not only the territory of Thirunavai but also the time honored privilege of presiding over the Mamankam. Elated by the success at Thirunavai the Zamorin continued his conquests. Before long he brought Nilambur, Manjeri, Malappuram and Venkatakotta (Kottakkal) within his sphere of influence. Nedunganad a pretty principality lying between the dominions of the Valluvakkonathiri and Palakkad Raja was also annexed by him. The Zamorin next turned his attention to the territories of the Talappilli rajas. Faced with the mounting aggression of the Zamorin rajas of Talappilli submitted without resistance. The Zamorin then conquered the whole of Ponnani Taluk which formed the part of Valluvanad and forced the Perumpadappu Swarupam to abandon its headquarters at Chitrakutam in Vanneri and move into Thiruvanchikulam. In the meantime the help rendered in to the Zamorin by the Muslims.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To analysis history of Zamorin
2. To discuss the decline household of Zamaorin

METHODOLOGY

The method applied in the study is not plainly historical. The study made use of tools of micro history. It is totally different from the traditional historical method of 'grand historical narratives'. Micro history is the intensive historical investigation of a well defined smaller unit of research. Most often a single event, and the community of a village, a family or a person. However, micro history can be distinguished from a simple case study in so far as micro history aspires to large questions in small places.

The micro historians placed their emphasis on small units and how people conducted their lives within them. By reducing the scale of observation the method tries to reveal the complicated function of individual relationships within each and every social setting and they stressed its difference from large norms.

Zamorin's family and Household

Zamorin's family and Household were governed on the basis of Marumakkathayam rules and traditions. By the beginning of 18th century the household began to feel the lack of male members to fill various capacities under Zamorin. Under the leadership of Zamorin Shakthan Samoodiripadu (d.1704) the policy of adoption from outside began was declared, but he died before the same was implemented' Later this was implemented by the lord who became the Zamorin after him' He adopted three 'Thampurans' and three 'Thampurattis' from the 'Nileshwaram Kovilakam'. Gradually three inheritance like 'Puthiya Kovilakam', Kizhakke Kovilakam and 'Padinjare Kovilakam' originated from this three Thampurattis. The second Dynasty of Zamorin community begins from here.

The reign of the directly adopted 'Thampurans' begin since 1751. Their reign is given below.

- 1) Thrishivaperor Theepetta Thampuran [rule 1751-58]
- 2) Pallayath Theepetta Thampuran [rule 1758-66]
- 3) Kunnathor Theepetta Thampuran [rule 1766-88]

It was during the reign of these 'Thampurans that the foreign rule came to Malabar. But before this, also problems and quarrels has occurred in the Zamorin's family. But everyone united and protested while a common problem occurred in their family. But problems prevailed frequently among provinces or Nadus.

Kunnathoor Theepetta Thampuram became the Zamorin after the suicide of Pallayath Theepetta Thampuram in 1766. It was during this period that the migration to Kunnathoor happened. He died in 1788 in Kunnathur. The main factor which facilitated the conquest was the lack of unity and co-operation among the rulers of Kerala. The expansionist policies pursued by the zamorin of Calicut had sparked off a series of conflict between Calicut and the neighboring principalities and created political conditions favourable for the Mysorean intervention.

As soon as Haider Ali ascended the throne of Mysore (1761) he decided to pursue his expansionist aims in Kerala. His conquest of the Bednore kingdom in 1763 brought him to the very borders of Kerala in the north. Haider called upon the Nilswaram Raja to restore some of the frontier fortresses which had originally belonged to Bednore, but the Raja turned down the demand. Haider now decided on an invasion of North Kerala. After the surrendering the kingdom of Chirakkal, Kottayam, Kadathanad, he advanced southwards after securing his communication by the cordon of block houses (Lakkidi Kottas) and entered Kurumbranad on his way to Calicut. The Zamorin could not accede to Haider's demand. The Mysorean army there upon entered Calicut. The Zamorin sent the members of his family to Ponnani, blew up his palace and committed self immolation.

Land tax and land survey were imposed and implemented during the reign of Mysore rulers of Haider and Tipu. There was no accurate land tax in the feudal social structure of Malabar before them. But many had collected tax for Zamorins. Among this the charge of ports was to Sahabandarkoya and the charge of land area tax was to 'Tarachennor'. Like way there were landlords in each Nadus in order to collect tax. Taxes were given as money and products' But all the tax collections were in the hands of Mysore rulers while Mysore rule started here. That was a great blow to Zamorin.

Valiya Ravivarma and Cheriya Ravivarma and their gang raised attack against Haider for the Zamorin who migrated to Kunnathoor. The Thampurans of Padinjare Kovilakam met each other on the brief that they were the exact rulers of Nediyruppu dynasty.

Valiya Ravivarma had the age of 25-30 and Cheriya Ravivarma of 16-18, during the attack of Haider Ali. There is no evidence regarding the fact that whether the 'Thampuram', of other Kovilakams had helped them or not in these age. But there was the support of Zamorin's Nair force or army.

The king had no permanent army anytime. But he will purchase the armies he needed from the 'Nairs' during his wartime. These Nairs were 'Kanakkars' It was their duty to collect the product share needed for landlords. Moreover, they were the traditional warriors who had the vernacular political power on the basis of compulsory army service and as the owner of land in the feudal system.

In response to this invitation prince Ravivarma (Synonymous with Valiya Ravivarma) met General Meadows, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Madras at Trichinopoly, and settled with him the terms of the following Cowlname, which was given to Eralpad Kishen Raja at Coimbatore, the 27th September.

(Signed by W. Meadows, Governor and Commander in chief)

British drove away Tipu from Malabar forever with the help of Ravivarmas by about 1790-91. The invitation of Lord Cornwallis and the declaration of Meadows gave much expectation among Malabar rulers especially to Valiya Ravivarma and among his nephew Cheriya Ravivarma. But nothing happened as expected. British started to use their crooked plans. They opposed the reinstatement of Zamorin saying minor reasons. Naturally Valiya Ravivarma and Cheriya Ravivarma became the deep rooted enemies of British. They became great and even the British were afraid of them. For this they got the help of Krishnen Raja, the "Eralpad".

. The problems had reached the extent where the Malabar Commissioner of English Company Stevens who knew about the tax collection of Nedunganad and the attacks towards Swaminatha Pattar, writing a letter to Valiya Ravivarma. Even then Valiya Ravivarma was not hesitated. He fought for the freedom of Malabar. His nephew Cheriya Ravivarma was also there with him. Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, who was the ruler of Kottayam was surprised seeing their courage and had written letter to Valiya Ravivarma. Logan had opinioned that if Pazhassi and these Thampurans had fought together British could not have easily subdued Malabar.

CONCLUSION

. By 1793, the life of the great personalities of Valiya Ravivarma and Cheriya Ravivarma came to an end. Later the brother and nephew of Cheriya Ravivarma were the enemies in the eyes of British. It was this nephew and brother who had assassinated Swami Natha Pattar in 1793 knowing that it was him who betrayed Cheriya Ravivarma to British. British suppressed these 'Thampurans' of Padinjare Kovilakam. Moreover, Valiya Manavikrama Raja was also dying in the British prison at Dindigal for arranging hiding place for the nephews of Pazhassi. They dismantled the Kalladikodu Kovilakam this time itself. Logan explains in his 'Malabar Manual' that even Zamorin was afraid of these young generations and it was because of his demand that Valiya Manavikrama Raja and Cheriya Manavikrama Raja were put into jail. The Zamorin supremacy was entirely destroyed while Malabar was annexed to Madras Presidency in 1800.

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Nalukettu in Mankavu Padinjare Kovilakam



Thirssalakulam in Mankavu