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AN INSIGHT INTO THE LIFE OF BARRISTER ASKAR YAR JUNG BAHADUR AND HIS PROGENY

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Abstract: This paper aims to highlight few of the important milestones of Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur's life. His real name was Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan. He was born on 16th September, 1886, in Lucknow. In the year 1357 Hijri (1938) he was given the title Askari Yar Jung Bahadur. He started his Law career from Allahabad and later started his Practice in the High Court of Hyderabad and in the Courts of the Honourable the Resident. His position with passage of time increased and he was known among the best Lawyers of Regime of Asifia. His ancestor was Syed Ameer Hamza bin Hamid, Bakshi-ul-Mulk related to the Sultan of Turkey, who commanded a lakh of cavalry. He came to Sarhind with his relatives and a Cavalry of thirty thousand. Janab Askari Hasan was married to Syeda Hameeda Begum and were blessed with four children - A daughter and three sons. He breathed his last on 29th June, 1961.

Key Words: Law, Lineage, Family, Aesthetic side.

Prologue

His real name was Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan. He was born on 16th September, 1886, in Lucknow then a Province of Agra and Oudh and left this mortal world on 29th June, 1961 at Hyderabad. He was a man of medium height, sturdy physique with a very commanding and impressive tone of voice. His father's name was Syed Mohammad Ghulam Jabbar and mother's name was Syeda Rais Unnisa Begum. His initial education was done at home itself. Afterwards he joined Nizam College of Hyderabad and later joined Aligarh Muslim University. Some of his contemporaries were Hon'ble Ghulam Mohammad, Hon'ble Nawab Dr. Sir Mehdi Yar Jung Bahadur, Shaheed Yar Jung. This paper aims to highlight few of the important milestones of Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur's life.

In 1908 he went abroad to Oxford and in 1913 he received B.A. degree from Oxford University and in 1914 he received his Barristers degree of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple in London (Shirazi, 338-339)¹. He received his M.A. degree in 1917 from Oxford University "in absentia" (Hasan, Ibrahim 18)²After receiving his Barristers degree, he came back to his motherland India and registered himself in Allahabad Court and started his practice as an Advocate. A few days later he moved to Hyderabad and started his Practice in the High Court of Hyderabad and in the Courts of the Honourable the Resident. (Mudiraj, 423)³ Because of his good manners, sincerity, hard work and intellect he established an elevated place in Law circles. In the year 1357 Hijri (1938) he was given the title Askari Yar Jung Bahadur. (Shirazi, 338)⁴

Out of many instances of his elevated professional career the following two instances are being quoted here in this paper and the first is "During the conclusion of the historic 'Excess Profits Bill becomes Law' on Thursday, July 22, 1943, Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur, Secretary, Legislative Council, thanked Hon'ble Mr Ghulam Mohammad, who presided over the session". (Chronicle, 50 years ago 1993) In another Glowing tribute dated on February 23, 1945 after the inaugural address. Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur, Secretary to the Legislative Council, requested the Hon'ble Nawab Dr. Sir Mehdi Yar Jung

Bahadur, Education Member, to unveil the portrait of the Nawab Saheb of Chhatari in the Council Hall'. (Chronicle, 50 years ago 1995)⁶He was not only an intellectual but also a very disciplined, punctual, organised and a devout person. He was on the highest esteemed position in Hyderabad High Court. His position with passage of time increased and he was known among the best Lawyers of *Regime of Asifia*. (Shirazi, 240)⁷

His Lineage

Barrister Nawab Askari Hasan was a 'Abedi' Syed that means he was a descendent of Prophet Mohammad's (Peace be upon him) great grandson Imam Zainul Abideen's son in progeny. Among the sons of Fourth Imam, his ancestry descended from Abul Hasan Zaid- al-Shaheed. Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur hailed from North India where his ancestor who was a descendent of Abul Hasan Zaid-al-Shaheed named as, Syed Ameer Hamza bin Hamid, Bakshi-ul- Mulk related to the Sultan of Turkey, who commanded a lakh of cavalry, under his command has settled. Ameer Hamza along with his relatives and cavalry of Thirty Thousand left Turkey and reached Sarhind in India during the reign of Sultan of Delhi, Shams-ud-din Iltutmish. After reaching Sarhind He erected a Mosque known to the present day as Masjide-Hamza bin Hamid. He has ruled under the regime of *Sultanate e Osmania*. He was a scholar of Turkish and Arabic Language. (Hussain, 5)⁸

Sultan Iltutmish was the third King of Mamluk dynasty and reigned from 1211A.D. to 1236 A.D. Sultan Iltutmish's roots were from Turkey therefore He gave a fitting reception to Bakshi Ul Mulk and to his numerous bounties added a present of Gotri Gunj known as Pergana Kotia Mir in the Tahsil of Kalyanpoor, in the district Fatehpur. Bakshi ul Mulk settled down and populated a Qasba which to this day is known as Hajipoor Ganj. (Mudiraj, 421)⁹ Bakshi Ul Mulk on higher orders to execute a war with King Parakramabahu II (1236-70 A.D) marched towards Ceylon crossing River Hoogli and the Bay of Bengal. The Rajah of Ceylon offered him resistance and gave Him tough battle in which he was killed. His Shrine still stands there in Ceylon. His son eventually gained victory and some of his descendants are in Ceylon.

Among those who were left behind by Bakshi ul Mulk, a predecessor of Nawab Askar Yar Jung, Syed Ismail who raised a village called Bahera Sadat, well known in the District of Fatehpur, Haswa, Tahsil Khaga settled there. As the name 'Sadaat' suggests that it was an abode for Syeds. Within a distance of less than a mile from Bahera Sadat is Alipur inhabited by Nawab Askar Yar Jung's predecessor, a progeny of Syed Ismail. This was the ancestral house of Nawab Askar Yar Jung Bahadur. This house has always been renowned for learning, knowledge and virtue.

Another ancestor of Askar Yar Jung Bahadur, successor of Syed Ismail was Syed Shah Noor. His Shrine is still in Bodhanpur. It has become a tradition that all the newly wedded couples of his family visit Syed Shah Noor's Shrine to get his blessings as he was a pious person. The traditional Youm-e-Ashura procession terminates at his Shrine. (Hasan, Ibrahim 7)¹⁰ Among his other eminent ancestors were Kidwat-ul-Ulama Moulvi Syed Asadullah and his son Shariat Panah Khazi-ul-Kozat, Moulvi Syed Wajihuddin, the Kazi of Delhi, whose son, Syed-ul-Ulama Syed Imamuddin held titles of distinction from the Kings of Delhi and Oudh and also occupied several posts of importance and responsibility. (Mudiraj, 422)¹¹

His grandfather's name was Maulana Ali Hasan he was given the title of Shams ul Ulema. (Hassan, Wasi 192)¹² His grandfather, the late Moulvi Syed Mohammad Ali Hasan Saheb 'Shams' was a scholar in some of the Eastern and Western Languages and was the author of thirty different literary works in Arabic, Persian and Urdu.

Askari yar Jung was trained and brought up under the guidance of his father Moulvi Syed Mohammad Ghulam Jabbar. His father was bestowed with the title of Nawab Jabbar Yar Jung Bahadur who retired as Ex Chief Superintendent of Law and he was also an expert scholar in Persian, Arabic and English. Nawab Jabbar was born on 30th April, 1861 at Alipur, Bahera Sadat, Uttar Pradesh. He was of high calibre and was a scholar of Arabic and Persian and was also well acquainted with English. He was the

author of several books. 'On the 16th February 1887, in memory of the Jubilee of the late Queen and Empress Victoria, he started the Jubilee Paper which for years did great service to his country and circulated extensively under his editorial guidance'. (Mudiraj, 422)¹³

Moulvi Jabbar Saheb arrived at Hyderabad, Deccan, on 27th of July 1889 and began his practice as a High Court Pleader. Later with passage of time He became sessions Judge followed by Member of Parliament and then Chief Superintendent of Law. He named his Bungalow, Gosh e Aafiat, Gulbagh Residency, Hyderabad and later after his demise Askar Yar Jung renamed it Jabbar Kadah, Hyderabad in memory of his father. 'The Nawab Jabbar retired on pension and passed away from this mortal world on 5th May 1928, after serving as a member of the Paigah of Khursheed Jah Bahadur for a space of three years. (Mudiraj, 423)¹⁴ His Maghbera or Tomb was built by Nawab Askar Yar Jung in his remembrance. The Maghbera has beautiful intrinsic art work on its exterior and interior. It is an artistic ensemble of Persian, Indo-Islamic and Deccani culture.

His family

Janab Askari Hasan was married to Syeda Hameeda Begum, daughter of Syed Mohammad Azeez Hasan. She was first paternal cousin of Janab Askari Hasan. She had a beautiful personality and was full of generosity. She maintained cordial relations with everyone irrespective of caste and creed. They were blessed with a daughter and three sons namely Syeda Nawab Begum (Bizattuz Zehra), Syed Mohammad Mustafa Hasan popularly known as Munne Bhai, Syed Mohammad Murtuza Hasan and the youngest being Syed Mujhtaba Hasan. 'He has always loved and considered Syed Ashfaq Hasan as his son who was the author of the book *The Spirit of Islam*'. (Hasan, Ibrahim 27)¹⁵

Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan's eldest daughter Syeda Nawab Begum was married to Syed Nasir Hussain Abidi (s/o Syed Imtiyaz Hussain Abidi). He was born on 9th Feb, 1908 and passed away from this mortal world on 6th January, 1979. He was a Sub-Judge in the Andhra Pradesh Judiciary. Syeda Nawab Begum was born on 5th May, 1908 and expired on 14th Oct, 1986. They were blessed with six daughters namely Syeda Afsar Jahan Begum alias Bibi, Syeda Shouket Jahan Begum, Syeda Qamar Jahan Begum, Syeda Anees Zehra Begum, Syeda Sarwat Jahan alias Amman and Syeda Azmat-uz-Zehra alias Ishan. His eldest granddaughter Syeda Afsar Jahan Begum was born on 29th March,1930 and she was married to Syed Saeed Hasan (District and Session Judge, He was the elder brother of Syeda Amena Begum and son of Syed Shahenshah Hussain) and they were blessed with three children Syeda Sameen Fatima, Syed Asif Hasan and Syeda Jabeen Fatima. She expired on 24th September, 2011.

His second granddaughter Syeda Shouket Jahan was born on 19th April, 1933 and expired on 29th July, 1995. She was married to Syed-Hameed Hasan (District and Session Judge, He was the second brother of Syeda Amena Begum and son of Syed Shahenshah Hussain). They were blessed with three children Syeda Yasmin Fathima, Syeda Shaheen Fathima and Syed Mohammad Abbas Hussain. Askar Yar Jung Bahadur loved his eldest great-grand child Syeda Yasmin Fathima a lot. When she was a toddler every day before going to school it was customary that her grandmother Syeda Nawab Begum (D/o Askar Yar Jung) used to take her for morning salutation to her great-grandfather. Askar Yar Jung used to ask her to recite poems and loved to hear her recitation.

His third granddaughter Syeda Qamar Jahan expired in her childhood. His fourth granddaughter Syeda Anees Zahra Abidi alias Annu was married to Syed Masoodul Hasan Abidi (s/o Syed Zia-ul-Hasan Abidi and Syeda Shafiya Khatoon). He expired on 11th November, 2008 and they were blessed with three children namely Syed Haider Abbas Abidi, Syed Hasan Abbas Abidi and Syeda Kazmi Zahra Abidi. Syeda Anees Zahra Abidi expired on 26th January, 2010. His fifth granddaughter Syeda Sarwat Jahan was born on 3rd October, 1946 and she was married to Syed Azadar Hussain (S/o Syed Altaf Hussain Kazmi and Jafferi Begum) and they were blessed with three children Syeda Seema Fatima, Syeda Sarah Fatima and Syed Mohammad Zain Abbas. She expired on 13th June, 2017. His sixth granddaughter was Syeda Azmat-uz-

Zehra Begum alias Ishan. She was born on 17th June 1943. She was married to Mir Taher Alikhan (S/o Mir Yasin Alikhan and Liyaqat Unnisa Begum) and they were blessed with two children a son Mir Zulfiquar Ali Khan and Syeda Butool Fatima. She expired on 13th February, 1972.

Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan's eldest son Syed Mustafa Hasan was born on 24th August, 1915 and expired on 9th May, 2004. He completed his M.A and L.L.B from Jamia Millia Aligarh. He under his father's guidance started to practice Law in Hyderabad. Few years He worked in Hyderabad and afterwards he went to Sudan as a Judge under the Government of Sudan. (Hussain, 5) He was married to Syeda Amena Begum (D/o Syed Shahenshah Hussain and Syeda Zehra Begum). She was born on 8th November, 1921 and expired on 6th September, 2007. She was a loving, caring, pious, kind and organised person. They were blessed with five children eldest daughter was Syeda Saleha Mustafa, followed by Syeda Taqia Mustafa, Syeda Naqiya Mustafa, Syed Ibrahim Mustafa Hasan and the youngest is Syed Wasi Mustafa Hasan Abedi. His eldest grand-daughter Saleha Mustafa Hassan is married to Syed Masood Ali Abidi (S/o Syed Fazal Hussain and Syeda Butool Begum) and is blessed with a daughter Nasreen Fatima Abidi and a son Abbas Ali Abidi. His second granddaughter Taqia Mustafa was married to Mirza Sadiq Ali Baig (S/o Mirza Zafar Ali Baig and Syeda Fatema Begum). They are blessed with three sons Zafar Ali Baig, Mohammad Ali Baig (Kazim) and Sohail Ali Baig. His third granddaughter Naqiya MustafaHasan is married to Mirza Ali Athar (S/o Meerza Ghulam Ali Asghar and Amutaz Sughra) and is blessed with three daughters namely Sughra Ali Athar, Asima Ali Athar and Sukaina Ali Athar.

Janab Askari Hasan's eldest grandson is Syed Ibrahim Mustafa Hasan. He is married to Syeda Iffat Zehra Abidi (D/o Syed Mohammad Aqil Hyder Hasan Abidi and Syeda Najma Abidi). They are blessed with three children Syed Reza Askari Hasan, Rais Ibrahim Mustafa Hasan and Ismat Ibrahim Mustafa. The youngest grandson of Janab Askari Hasan is Syed Wasi Mustafa Hasan Abedi. He is married to Syeda Farhat Fatima (D/o Syed Ali Hussain and Syeda Farzana Begum). They are blessed with four children. His eldest son is Syed Mohammad Faazil Hasan Abedi followed by daughter Syeda Farhana Fatima Abedi, his second son Syed Mohammad Faiz Hasan Abedi and the youngest son is Syed Mohammad Sajjad Hasan Abedi.

Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan's second son was Syed Mohammad Murtuza Hasan Abidi. He was born on 4th July, 1917. He was a scholar of high calibre and he remained a bachelor throughout his life. He completed his Bachelor's Degree from Jesus College, Oxford University in Forestry. After his return to India, he went to his native town, Alipur to implement what he studied but unfortunately, he could not pursue as the locals turned hostile to such an extent that fearing danger to his life, he migrated. He went to East Pakistan which afterwards became Bangladesh. Major part of his life he has lived in Bangladesh and became a native citizen of Bangladesh. However, in the last phase of his life he returned to India and spends his remaining days with his siblings and their families. He left this mortal world on 10th May, 1991.

Syed Mohammad Askari Hasan's third and youngest son was Syed Mohammad Mujtaba Hasan Abidi. He was born on 1st April, 1919 and he expired on 27th May, 2007 and his grave is in Daire Mir Momin. He graduated in Electrical Engineering. In his initial years of career, he worked in Electricity Department and also took interest in politics. In the year1962 after his father's demise, He went to Alipur to take care of family property. He was married to Syeda Saeeda Begum (D/o Syed Yusuf Hasan and Aliya Begum). She was born on 22nd September, 1922 and expired on 5th January,2009. They were blessed with a son, Syed Muttaqui Mujtaba Hasan. He was born on 11th December, 1952 and expired on Friday, 23rd April, 2021. Syed Muttaqui Mujtaba Hasan was married to Syeda Azeez Akhter alias Mumtaz. (D/oSyed Ahmed Nawab Abedi and Syeda Rasheed Fatima). They are blessed with four daughters Syeda Firdaos Zehra, Syeda Afroz Zehra, Syeda Fatima Zehra alias Saba and the youngest is Syeda Mehroz Fatima.

Syed Mujtaba Hasan, the youngest son of Askar Yar Jung had different hobbies and one among them was carpentry. Seeing the love for pets by the children of Wasi Mustafa Hasan (his elder brother, Syed

Mustafa Hasan's grandchildren) He made with his hands an excellent and beautiful chicken coop (hen house) made of wooden frame and net and gifted them. Children used to enjoy his company especially when he used to scare the monkeys with his Air gun.

His aesthetic side

Nawab Askar Yar Jung liked to wear simple Kurta Pyjama while at home and Sherwani and cap when He received or visited people. While having an official meeting with the Nizam of Hyderabad or official duty he used to wear the official form of dress of the Court of Law. Whether it was Urdu or English language He preferred to use correct lexicon in his linguistic and pronunciation. He also emphasised this aspect to his family members and to people who worked under him. He corrected if anyone used slang in their language. He himself taught Arabic, Quran and religious moral conduct to his grandchildren and while teaching he was quite strict with them. He was at times very considerate and soft towards them too. While sitting on dining table he stressed on small mannerisms. At that time, they detested it but now they realise that whatever he taught them has in the long run helped them to be good individuals and to take right decisions in their lives.

He provided the best of facilities to his family members. His house was well furnished and his office had custom made furniture with beautiful chandeliers. He was among the first people after Nizam VII to own a Rolls Royce (Silver Ghost). He was an enthusiast of health and fitness and everyday went for morning walk and told his chauffeur to follow him and afterwards used to drive the car himself back home. He was simple at heart and never misused his designation and post. (Hasan, Ibrahim 31-32)¹⁶ His inspiring personality was such that people respected and feared him at the same time, maybe this was because of his high principles, excellent education, punctuality and great regard for moral values. He was always fair and strict in his dealings and did not tolerate wrong easily.

Once a year He visited his ancestral Bungalow in 'Alipur' in the month of Moharram where his father had constructed an 'Imam Bargah" and a 'Mosque' which still stands to this day. Askar Yar Jung was a God fearing and a pious soul. Every year in the month of Moharram from first to thirteenth of Moharram ul Haram He performed the Majalis of Shohada e Karbala which his father Syed Mohammad Ghulam Jabbar used to do and He continued His father's tradition for a long time. 'He had inherited huge property from his father a Bungalow and a huge garden which had an orchard of mango trees (Amrohi), guava and kattal (Jack fruit) were a scenic beauty to the eyes.' (Hasan, Ibrahim 14)¹⁷When he was quite old and unable to travel, He started those Majalis from 1st to 13th Moharram ul Haram in his house at Jabbar Kadah on a grand scale and in these Majalis he used to invite Zakirs (religious scholars) from Lucknow and other cities of Utter Pradesh until his demise. Afterwards these Majalis were continued by his sons Syed Mustafa Hasan and Syed Mujhtaba Hasan with the help of local Zakir's in the hall of Jabbar Kadah.

The Imam Bargah and Mosque in Alipur are very beautiful and are made of Indo-Islamic architectural design. Since the days of Askar Yar Jung Bahadur the caretakers of the Imambargah and Mosque along with their children, grandchildren and neighbours pray every day in the Mosque. Due to sentimental attachment and security reasons the Alams were brought to Hyderabad e Deccan when his sons Syed Mustafa Hasan and Syed Mujtaba Hasan were unable to travel to Alipur. Thus, it is a miracle that on the eve of the first of every Moharram the villagers and people from the neighbouring parts visit the Imam Bargah and show their taaziyat to Imam Hussain and Shohada e Karbala and do Majalis in the Imambargah till Ashura. The caretakers have now installed some Alams in the Imam Bargah for the auspiciousness of the Imambargah.

Janab Askari Hasan was a great Philanthropist and aided many people with monetary assistance without differentiating between any caste, creed and colour. He dedicated his unflinching services to the orphans and the needy. It is a well-known fact that at a time more than forty people (relatives, friends and needy) used to partake in his meals and reside in his house apart from immediate family members. Once a

non-Muslim neighbour asked him that she wanted to buy a small part of his land. He called her his sister. Therefore, he gifted the land to her without taking a single penny from her and on her persuasion said, 'How can I take money from my sister?'He was very kind and humane towards his servants and people around him. He always taught his grandchildren to call servants with respect and never call them by name but to add Bhai or Baba with their names like Qasim Bhai and Eiddu Baba.

Conclusion

Our fourth Imam Zainul Abedien whenever He heard of any one's death or whenever death was mentioned used to recite the 40th prayer of *The Sahifat-ul-Kamilah*. An excerpt of his prayer: 'And fix Death before our eyes, permanently (as a fixture), and let not our remembrance of it be intermittent.' (Hasan, Wasi 118)¹⁸ In the last days of his time when Askar Yar Jung was ill with paralysis he used to ask for his grandchildren and liked to spend his time in their company. His youngest grandchild Syed Wasi Mustafa Hasan was a kid at that time. Askari Yar Jung used totell the servants to bring him so that he could see him and feel happy. His Arabic pronunciation was very good and when he was ill with paralysis his eldest son, Syed Mustafa Hasan recorded his voice reciting Eid prayers. After his demise till today on Eid day his family members pray Eid Namaz by playing his recorded voice. This intellectual and pious soul left this mortal world to join the galaxies of pious souls on 29th June, 1961 in Hyderabad and was buried in front of the beautiful architectural marvel, Maghbera or Tomb of his beloved father Janab Syed Mohammad Ghulam Jabbar in Daire Mir Momin. Alhamdulillah He is survived by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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