

**ILTUTMISH (PART-1)  
B.A. PART-3, PAPER-V**

**DR. MD.NEYAZ HUSSAIN  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
& HOD  
P.G. DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY  
MAHARAJA COLLEGE,  
ARA**

# ILTUTMISH (1211-1236)

## **Introduction**

Shasuddhin Iltumish (1210-36) who was a slave of Aibak, succeeded him at Delhi in 1210. He was Governor of Badauni when he deposed Qutub-ud-din's successor Aram shah and ascended to the throne of Delhi sultanate in 1211. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi, remained the ruler until his death on may 1236. Intutmish introduced silver tanka and the copper Jital- the two basic coins of the Sultanate. He was responsible not only for keeping the Delhi

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Sultanate together, but made it a well-knit and compact state. He may thus be called the real founder of what came to be called the Delhi Sultanate.

## **Emergency**

Iltutmish was the greatest of the slave king. He was the slave who rose to distinction by sheer dint of merit. He was a Turk of Ilbari tribe in Turkestan. He belonged to a noble family. As a child, he was very beautiful and showed signs of intelligence and sagacity. He excited he

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jealously of his brothers who managed to deprive him of his paternal home and care, He was sold to a merchant of Bukhara and the latter sold him to Qutub-ud-din Aibak. Iltutmish rose step by step till he was made Governor of Badaun. In recognition of his service Iltutmish by the orders of Muhammad Ghori was manumitted and given the rank of the Amir-ud-Umara.

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When Qutub-ud-din Aibak died in 1210 he was succeeded by Aram Shah. As he was found to be most incompetent, the nobles of Delhi decided to invite Iltutmish to the throne and their choice was in the best interest of the infant empire.

The election of Iltutmish was opposed by the commander of the guards of Qutub-ud-din but his opposition was collapsed as there was no serious backing. The jurists headed by the Qazi Wajih-ud-din opposed Iltutmish on the ground that he was not a free man. When Iltutmish showed them the latter of manumission, they also kept quiet.

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## **Early Achievements:-**

Iltutmish had to face several formidable problems in early part of his career. Iltutmish was not an usurper as there was nothing to usurp. There was no sovereign in India at that time. The sovereign powers of Iltutmish was based on three things. In the first place, he elected by the officials, secondly he could claim by the right of conquest and the power to enforce, in the third place, he was formally recognized by the Khalifa of Baghdad. It is not clear whether Iltutmish made any special request to the Khalifa or the Khalifa himself gave the same to him

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voluntarily. The khalifa confirmed Iltutmish in the possession of all the land and sea which he had conquered as Sultan- Azam or Great Sultan. The act fastened the friction of Khilafat on the Sultanate of Delhi and involved legally the recognition of the final sovereignty of the Khalifa, and authority outside the geographical limits of India but instead that vague yet nonetheless real brotherhood of Islam.” On his coins, Iltutmish described himself as the Lieutenants of the Khalifa.

(To be continued)