



**TURKISH RULE IN INDIA
(GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN: PART-1)**

**भारत में तुर्की शासन
(गयासुद्दीन बलबन: भाग-1)**

(UG , SEM-4, PAPER MJC-7)

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GHIYASUDDIN BALBAN

(गयासुद्दीन बलबन)

► Ghiasuddin Balban (1266-1286)

Ghiasuddin Balban laid down the foundation of a new dynasty called the **Balbani Dynasty** although he was intimately related with the dynasty of Iltutmish as both Sultan Masud Shah and Sultan Nasiruddin were his sons in-law and his own son Bughra Khan was married to the daughter of Sultan Nasiruddin by his another wife.

► Early Career

Dr A.L. Srivastava believes that Balban was an Ilbari Turk whose father was a Khan of 10,000 families. His original name was **Bahauddin**.

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Balban was taken prisoner in his early youth and sold as a slave in Baghdad by the Mongols. His master Khwaja Jamaluddin brought him to Delhi where he was purchased by Iltutmish in 1233 CE and, after sometime, promoted to the rank of *Khassadar*. Raziya appointed him to the post of *amir-i-shikar*. However, Balban proved unfaithful and became a party to oust Raziya from the throne. Bahram Shah gave him the jagir of Rewari and Masud Shah assigned him the jagir of Hansi. Wazir Abu Bakr appointed him *amir-ihajib* and from that position he got the opportunity to consolidate his position among 'the forty'.

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He conspired against Masud Shah and was primarily responsible to put up Nasiruddin on the throne. In 1249, he married his daughter to Sultan Nasiruddin, got the post of *naib-i-mamlakat* and also the title of *Ulugh Khan*. During the reign of Nasiruddin, Balban practically enjoyed all the powers of the state except for a brief interval of about a year. By ability, tact and diplomacy, Balban, certainly, had become the first among the powerful Turkish nobility. Therefore, after the death of Nasiruddin in 1265 CE, he ascended the throne of Delhi without any opposition.

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► His Difficulties

Though Balban had ruled for nearly 20 years during the reign of Sultan Nasiruddin, yet there were many difficulties which he had to face when he himself became the Sultan. The primary necessity of the state as well as that of Balban was to regain the lost prestige of the Sultan. After Iltutmish's death, his Turkish slave-nobles attempted to capture the throne and succeeded in its efforts. One after another, the successors of Iltutmish gave way to the rising power of the nobles and therefore, the prestige of the Crown was lost. It was Balban who had captured the ruling power.

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Thus, the power and prestige of the Sultan was completely lost. Balban himself had contributed towards it. But when he became the Sultan himself he realized the necessity of restoring the power of the Crown. He, therefore, felt the necessity of breaking the power of the nobility and creating awe and terror among the general population.

Another difficulty that Balban faced was providing security to the Delhi Sultanate and consolidating it further. All other problems were connected with it. In the North-West, it was absolutely necessary to check the growing power of the Mongols.

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In the East, Bengal had become independent and it was necessary to bring it under the control of the Delhi Sultanate so that other provinces were not encouraged to follow its example. The Hindus were revolting against the Delhi Sultanate in Doab, Malwa, Bundelkhand and Rajasthan and it was necessary to stop them from making further inroads. The Meos in Mewat and the Hindus in Katehar were revolting within the territories of the Delhi Sultanate and even the capital was not safe from their terror so that the Western gate of Delhi was always closed after the afternoon prayer. All this needed Sultan's immediate attention. (To be continued)