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## FORMATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TIMURID DYNASTY AND CHINESE EMPIRE

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### ABSTRACT

*There are a lot of images reflecting diplomatic relations between Temur sultanate and Chinese Empire in sourced referring to Amir Temur's history. For example, in "Zafarname" written by Nizomuddin Shomiy and Sharafuddin Ali Yazdiy and "Matlai sa'dayin va majmai bahrayin" written by Abdurazzak Samarkandiy the diplomatic relations between Mawarannahr and China in the reign period of Sahibkiran and Timurid princes, especially when Shahrukh was on the throne, were described authentic details. This article is focused on the events of diplomatic relations between these two countries on the basis of the above mentioned memoirs. Also, the terms of that period were especially paid much attention.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Ambassador, Embassy, Diplomacy, Reception, Visit, Ceremony Of Reception, Gift, Letter.*

### INTRODUCTION

The appearance of the institution of "government" was the basis for the establishment of the institution which works with foreign affairs in order to set social, political, economical, cultural, religious etc relations between one and another country or sultanate. Foreign affairs are impossible to imagine without diplomatic services. Due to historical references, the mission of embassies was first applied in the First Turkic khanate among Turkic countries. During 35 years of reigning, Sahibkiran Amir Temur was paid much attention by the world for his setting diplomatic relations not only with Western countries but also with Eastern countries such as China. Since, Amir Temur and his generation understood well that the presence of diplomatic relations with neighboring countries especially with China would bring both economic and political profit too.

Ambassadoric relations between Turan and China go back to a long history. The role of diplomacy was considered to be very important in establishment of social, economical, political, cultural, religious and other relations between the first and second Turkic khanates and Chinese Empire. It is well known that different relations between Turkic and Chinese nations are reflected in Chinese chronicles (1). Setting diplomatic relations between Amir Temur's reign and Chinese Empire started in 1386. In this same year Sakhbirkhan sent the ambassadors led by Nizomuddin Koshgariy to the palace of Chinese governor (Tabgach khan) with a diplomatic mission (2). Amir Temur conquered Irak and Persian countries in February of 1388, he went to Samarkand through Isfakhan and when he stopped on the bank of Jaykhun river for a rest, Nizomuddin Koshgariy who came back from China came to him with lots of gifts and told about the state of Chinese country.

In November of 1397, ambassadors of Chinese Empire who participated in the wedding of Amir Temur with Tukul Khanim, the daughter of Khizr Khoja Khan who was the ruler of Jata (Mongolia) presented different gifts. As Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi witnesses, Beks of the palace led the way to Amir Temur's reception and informed the governor about the purpose of the ambassadors' visit (3).

Ambassadoric relations set with China became very rapid in the reign time of Sakhbirkhan's son Shahrukh Mirzo. Detailed information is reflected in a historical book of "Matlai sadayin and majmai bahrayn" by Abdurazzok Samarkandiy (4). In 1412 Shahrukh Mirzo, who was having a rest, right after having known that ambassadors were sent to Khirat by Doy-Ming the emperor of Chinu Mochin, gave an order to put the cities and bazaars in order and decorate the stores. Due to the tradition of meeting, Beks of the palace went out of Khirat and met Chinese ambassadors and brought them into the capital.

Due to Shahrukh Mirzo's indication Bog'i Zamon was prepared to meet ambassadors, the responsible authorities made seats to every participant. Amirs led the ambassadors to Shakhruh who was sitting on the throne of the Saltanete. The ambassadors were honored to kiss the great governor's hands and narrated the content of the gifts and a letter sent by Chinese Emperor.

In the letter which began with "Doy-Ming, the great padishakh, is sending a letter to Samarkand, to Shakhruh the Great" the Emperor wrote about his ruling the country with the help of God's will; about how he respects both near and far counties equally; how Shahrukh is clever and wise and is taking care about the country and the army, that the Emperor is aware of Shahrukh's good attitude, kindness and charity towards them and that he is glad to know all these; how Khirat people were glad and happy because of Chinese ambassadors' visit with different gowns and gifts (*the first visit of Chinese ambassadors to Shahrukh's palace was approximately in 1410*); that he was glad to see the ambassadors from Khirat to visit him and bring horses and gifts consisting of native clothes; that he felt that Mirzo was in a friendly attitude and it deserved praise and approval; that close relations between both countries had started from Amir Temur's and Chinese great governor Toy-Tsuy's reign periods. Besides that he wrote that he had sent Du-Jihun-Boy from Kasoy province and Dong-Ching from Sung-Kung-Ji with the ambassadors, that he had sent valuable clothes from expensive silk to Shahrukh, he also wrote that it was important to send the ambassadors continuously so that not to stop the relations and continue trade between the countries. At the end of the letter it was pointed that Shahrukh should

bring up Khalil sulton (Shahrukh's nephew) well and that it was necessary to follow Emperor's loyalty.

As Abdurazzok Samarkandiy wrote, the Chinese Emperor sent another letter apart from it. In that letter the Chinese Emperor included a detailed list of the gifts he sent to Shahrukh. another letter was compiled in form of a road letter and it served as an instruction and directions for the ambassadors. each of these letters were compiled in Persian language and Persian(Arabic) script, the same content of the letter was written in Mongolian and Turkic scripts and in Chinese script (hieroglyph) in Chinese language.

Shahrukh listened to the content of the letter, understood what the Chinese Emperor wanted to say and then instructed to make a party in the honor of the ambassadors.

Having completed all that was planned, the ambassadors started to get ready for the road to go back home with the permission of Shahrukh. Due to the rules of diplomacy of that time, Shaykh Mukhammad Bakhshiy went to China with the ambassadors. Abdurazzok remarked that as the Chinese governor didn't want to accept Islam religion and was not acting due to Islamic requirements, hoping that he will make his mind, Shokhrukh sent two letter in Arabic and Persian languages by the ambassadors in a friendly way.

The following visit of Doy-Ming's ambassador to Shokhrukh was on April 18- May 17, 1417. 300 horsemen under the guidance of Bi-Bochin, Jot-Bochin and Tatk-Bochin came to Khirat safe and sound and brought different presents consisting of different gifts, horses, atlas and books, expensive silk clothes, Chinese dishes for Temuriy mirzos and their spouses. Along with this, they brought a letter which served to strengthen their further relations and be a basis for future cooperation. The letter comprised a content about the question of supplying safe visits of the citizens and merchants of both countries between the countries. At the end of Amir Sayyid Akhmad Tarkhon's first visit to Khirat he presented a horse to the Emperor by the ambassadors coming back to his country. The Chinese Emperor liked that horse very much and as an answer to this present he sent a number of presents and a picture of two horsemen holding the horse by two sides drawn by Chinese painters to Sayyid Akhmad. After some time due to the permission Chinese ambassadors who were returning home were accompanied by Ardasher Tavachi. Ardasher returned Khirat only in two years in 1419.

On September 21- October 20, 1419 Pi-Mochin and Khan Mochin came to Khirat and brought presents, gifts and a letter of the Emperor to Shokhrukh. Abdurazzok Samarkandiy brings the following information on the style of writing of the Emperor's letter as an example: they wrote the name of the padishakh (Emperor) at the beginning of the letter, and then wrote in the lines a bit lower than that. While writing the letter every time when they wanted to write about God, they left the line empty and wrote the word God from a new line. When the name of the Emperor was written they did the same.

In 1419, Shahrukh mirzo sent ambassadors to China with Shodihoja and Kukcha as the head. Shokhrukh's son, hakim of Tus and Mashhad regions, Boysung'ur Mirzo ordered Giyosiddin Naqqoshto join the ambassadors and write down every detail about the state of the roads of every rural area, cities, towns, provinces; the quality of the building in those places; rules and laws of the cities and towns; power and might of the Emperor, governing the country,

style of ruling the policy, wonders of the cities and lands; characters of well known people etc. in a diary of a chronicle type from the day of leaving Khirat up to the day coming back home.

On December 4 of the same year, the ambassadors who started to the road from Khirat came to Samarkand on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1420. A little earlier from that Ulugbek mirzo had sent his ambassadors Sultonshokh and Mukhammad bakhshi to China. another son of Shokhrukh Suyurg'atmish mirzo joined his on ambassador Arg'udok, the ambassador of the hakim of Kharezm province Shokhmalikbek- O'rduvon and the ambassador of Badakhshon'sshakh – TojiddinShokhrukh. They started their visit to China on February 25. In six months i.e. on August 24, the ambassadors reaching the first city of China – Soju, were welcomed with respect and honor; big parties were organized in their honor. Then how many people every ambassador had was listed and registered and was presented to Do-Ji people as a reference. Due to the list Shodihoja and Ko'kcha had 200 people with them, Sulton Akhmad and Giyosuddin Naqqosh had 150 people, Arg'udok had 60, O'rduvon had 50 and Tojuddin had 50 people with them. From these numbers it was not difficult to know what statesmen or the head of the province these ambassadors were sent by.

The ambassadors who continued their way on August 27, reached China's capital Khonbalik by Korovul kal'asi, Kamju and Sadinfu cities on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. On December 14, the ambassadors were met solemnly by the Emperor. The receiving party was as the following: the space between ambassadors and the Governor was 15 gaz (*one gaz is equal to 91.5 cm*). One of the well known Amirs read about the ambassadors in the reference written in a Chinese letter. Mavlonohoji Yusuf Kozi who was managing one of the 12 meetings of the province leaders and the Governor came near to the ambassadors under the guidance of several muslim translators who knew the language, divided by two and told that they should bow their heads by putting their heads on the floor three times. The ambassadors bowed their heads but their heads did not reach the ground. After that, the letters of ShahrukhMirzo, Boysung'urMirzo and others were wrapped in a piece of yellow silk due to the Chinese traditions and raised high in two hands. Mavlonohoji Yusuf gave the letters to the authority standing near the throne of the governor, the authority handed the letters to the Emperor. The Emperor asked about ShahrukhMirzo state, padishakhs of neighboring countries he is governing, especially about his relations with Karo Yusuf Turkman from the ambassador who were brought nearer to the throne of the governor and were still bowing their heads. When their visit ended, the ambassadors were brought to the dining rooms specially prepared for them. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December the governor gave a special party in the honor of the ambassadors.

On May 18, 1421 due to the permission of the son of the diseased Chinese Emperor, ambassadors of Khirat started their way back home. On November 13, 1421 the ambassadors who reached the city of Soju met with the ambassador of IbrokhimSultonmirzowho was coming from Sheroz – Amir Khasan and the ambassador of Rustammirzo who was coming from Isfahan to China – PakhlavonJamol. The ambassadors who had different adventures and events in a long way reached ShahrukhMirzo's palace on September 2, 1422 and narrated everything with details.

During the visit of the ambassadors to China (2 years and 10 months) Giyosiddin Nakkosh completed the tasks given by Boysung'ur Mirzo excellently. The images, impressions described by Giyosuddin during the trip is scientifically important in gaining objective information about the state construction of China, Chinese traditions, customs, rules and laws etc of the XV

century. We will prove our opinion with some facts and materials expressed in Giyosuddin's diary.

Between the capital of China –Khonbalik and other cities Yoms() were set. For example, from Sokju up to the capital there are 93 mayors and the yoms were constructed in equal sizes to cities or rural areas. There were a number of Karag'u and kayday-fu.

Karag'u is a house, the height of which is 60 gas, where 10 people serve all the time. In this house one can see another Karag'u so that in case of emergency, for example, if foreign army comes, the soldiers made a fire at the very time, other Karag'u where the flame and fire was seen continued to make a fire. By this waymaking fire was continued. As a result, in one day people got to know that something wrong happened in a distance of 3 months way. When a letter with detailed information was compiled, it was delivered to the necessary place very fast by Kay-Day-Fu.

The guardians who served Karag'u were changed every 10 days. The people of Kay-Day Fu lived there constantly.

There were 450 horses and donkeys, 50-60 coaches were ready to serve the ambassadors. People who took care of horses were called Bo-Fu, people who took care of donkeys were called Lu-Fu and people who pulled the coaches were called Ji-Fu. In Yoms the ambassadors were given mutton, poultry(from geese and chicken), rice, flour, honey, wine, garlic and onions processed with vinegar and fresh fruits.

The front side of Chinese buildings, doors of their houses looked to the South. During the parties the Emperor sat at the table with fresh fruits and decorated with flowers. On the right and left sides of the table there were strong guardians with muscles, long hair, mustachio and beard i.e. Do-Ji who carried dagger and shield. At the back of these guardians there stood wardens who carried spears and swords. In Chinese opinion, the left side was considered to be more valuable than the right side and the ambassadors sat on the left side.

We can meet valuable information on the funeral ceremony of one of the Chinese aristocrats peculiarly a princess in the palace of the governor among the writings of Giyosuddin Nakkosh. Special cemetery and grave as prepared on a certain mountain for the dead woman and she was raised and brought to the mountain due to the customs. The horses belonging to the dead woman were left in the mountain to graze and no one dared to take them. Concubines of the woman were brought to the mountain too; they were supplied with food enough for five years. Concubines who used the caves as a shelter had to die when the food reservoir was over.

**Analysis of the literature referring to the topic.** Historical events described in Ahmad Ibn Arabshah's "History of Amir Temur", Nizomuddin Shomiy's and Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi's "Zafarnama", Abdurrazzak Samarkandiy's "Matlai sadayin and majmai bahrayn" which narrate about Amir Temur served as the basic fundamentals for preparing the article. Also, when mentioning about diplomatic relations, the author of the article addressed a number of works written about the history of the First and Second Turkic khanates, period of Kara-Khanids and Kharezmshahs' sultanate.

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