

**SAMAN-JI-SULTANAT
A CRITICAL LETTER**

By

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My dear Ghulam Muhammad Lakho

Thanks for copy of your "Tarikh-e-Sind, Samma Kingdom."

I have been too busy during past 4 months therefore could not go into detailed reading of your book, but I have done a quick reading. I congratulate you for your attempt. I am not professional critic like Ali Ahmed Brauhi and his employer-friends, whose sole job is to upgrade themselves. Your approach in the book is scientific or factual and straightforward. When I write anything, my approach is to exhaust all available material, look for new, create and find more and this makes me critical of almost any work because there is room for improvement. This does not mean that I do not like your book. I want additions to it for improvement. I also look it from the angle that this book may be sold out in a year, so why not to think of a future volume of 600 pages to be published about 5 years from now. My suggestions are for future. On the present book some of my comments are as under:

Introduction

The first person to do work in some details on Sammas is Dr.Riaz-ul-Islam. He inspired Dr.Baloch, Hassamuddin and me.

Page 2

The Sammas in general did not accept Islam at the time of Arab conquest or during first 140 years of Arab rule. Only a few may have. They were converted to Islam much later probably in 12th and 13th centuries. Rivalry between Sammas and Soomra may have been religious. Soomra were Ismailis. Sammas were converted directly into Sunism later, under sufi influence.

Page 4

Habaris were Arabs by descent, but in 130 years as Arab settlers since first quarter of 8th century they had intermarried with Sindhis, became land-owners, and settled in rural Sindh. Most of Arab wives were Sindhis. They were Sindhis as much or even more than Shikarpuri Pathans, who came 200 years ago but brought their womenfolk and usually married within their clan.

Grassroots

Page 8

I had re-verified the route of Muhammad Bin Tughlaq after text of Chronological Dictionary was printed. The correct route is Nagar Parker, Virawah, Diplo, Mithi, Dambherlo, Digri, Nasarpur and Sonda, all by land route and almost along present national highway in its last reach i.e from Kotri via Jherruk.

Page 10

Kindly check if year of Qalander's tomb Rajab 757 A.H. or 1356 of Prof.Shafi or 1358? If it was 757 A.H. it would most probably be 1356.

I have not come across any records about the destruction of Nagar Parkar in 14th century. May be you have necessary information.

Page 16

Jam Feroze-I may have come into power in or soon after 1333 A.D., and may have remained in power upto 1351 or 1352 A.D.

Page 20

Shaikh Turabi's tomb. Ishtiaq Khan has come out with a new date for construction of this tomb finding some change in inscription. He told me himself. There is difference of 10 or 100 years.

Page 37

My conjecture is that Jam Salahuddin was instigated and helped by Khenghar more than by Muzaffar of Gujarat.

Page 45 Para II

There was change of a course of the river in the beginning of 16th century from near Radhan (Dadu district) to the west of Piarogoth sugar mill by about 2 miles to Talti. Darya Khan's pre-occupation with his land near Talti may be possibility.

Page 49

Shah Beg took Baghhan Jhangara-Karachat-Jungshahi route to the west of Thatt.

Page 50

Feroz Shah was not killed at orders of Hamayun. I discussed this with Hassamuddin, who accepted that he had written this without evidence.

Page 61

Rule of Umer at Umerkot is totally a folklore version to prove Umer-Marvi story. Town was Amarkot.

Page 63

For Jam Tughlaq's relations with Gujarat my map of 1441 A.D., opposite page 344, shows rise of Jaunpur sultans. They could have displaced Delhi rulers and Jaunpuri campaign was aimed at creation of Jaunpuri Indian Empire, which did not happen. Delhi or U.P., rose, declined, fell and rose again since 301 B.C. almost after every 150 to 200 years and Jam Tughlaq may have taken precaution.

Page 68

Mir Chakar is legendary figure with no historical fact behind him. Chakar could have collected 40,000 soldiers only if each one of Baluchi males of Baluchistan having an age of 17 to 40, would have joined him. In fifteenth century, Baluchistan could not have had population of more than 3 to 4 lacs including 1 lac so called Pathans actually Mongol descendents.

Page 72

Last paragraph. The soldiers were Rajputs from Cutch, who observed this custom.

Page 84

Batutta visited Sehwan, in early Summer and saw crop of melon raised on preserved moisture and thought they could grow any other crop. Regular cultivation was rice, jawar, bajra on inundation water from June to July to October and Dobarli of pulses and oil seeds from November to February/March. He carried wrong impression about crops.

Page 90

Qalandar most probably was Ismaili preacher.

Page 101

Pir Sadaruddin's Gunan do not appear to have Sindhi language of 14th century. It is language of 18th century and at the best late 17th century. Original poetry of his went modifications by subsequent preachers so that people understand.

Page 108 last paragraph

Kathias a Hindu tribe of Sindh left Sindh around 700 A.D. and Kathiawar is named after them. Kathias of Sindh call themselves Samats.

Page 109

Chawra is Sindhi caste pronounced as چاورا

Rai Diach is legendary and not historical figure.

Sammra left Sindh in 1148 A.D., not due to Soomra's highhandedness but due to hydrological changes in the lower Sindh.

Grassroots

Page 116

Inscription puts date of Muhammad Tughlaq's death as Muharam 21, 752 A.H. Barni puts it as 751 A.H. 27th Muharam or March 25, 1351. Date of construction of tomb of Qalander as per inscription is Rajab 757 and Prof. Shafi has put it 756 A.H. It can therefore be 1356 A.D. I have not calculated exact date of Gregorian calendar.

Page 119

Turabi's tomb as per inscription is 782 A.H. Prof. Shafi puts it as 780 and Ishtiaq Khan now puts another date probably 772 A.H. This is probably due to change in word Hashtad by a decade. I have to recheck with him.

Genealogical table "A" opposite page 124

This is based on folklore and is not true.

These are a few opinions on quick reading without verification from records. If and when you plan a large version, we can re-discuss. I hope you take these comments in the spirit I have written. You can do anything with them including publishing them as constructive comments.

My suggestion is that all A.H. dates be converted into A.D., and exact dates put in.