Taj Salmani and His Work "Tarikhnoma"

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Abstract: This article is dedicated to "Tarikhnoma" by Tadj Salmani covering the history of Amir Temur and Timurid rule in the Uzbek state in 1404-1409. The article highlights the life and activity of Tadj Salmani, his work "Tarikhnoma", the content, style, and significance of the source, researches, copies and translations of the source.


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Introduction

One of the brightest stages in the history of Uzbek statehood - when it comes to written sources of the Timurid era and their authors, specialists think first of such great historians as Giyosiddin Ali, Nizamiddin Shami, Sharafiddin Ali Yazdi, Khafizi Abru, Fasih Khawafi, Abdurazzok Samarkandi, Mirkhand, Khondamir. However, the name Taj Salmani is not even familiar to many. Those who have heard of him know little or nothing about this historian, poet, figure, considered one of the great writers of his time, and his work "Tarikhnoma". However, important political events that took place in Uzbek state in 807/1404 - 811/1409 were covered for the first time, and the author himself was their participant and living witness.

Main part

Fasih Khawafi, who worked during the Timurid period [1; 153], Khondamir [2; 461], Ibn Arabshah [3; 86], there is information about Taj Salmani in the works of mature historians. There are different opinions about its origin. In particular, Kazi Ahmad Kumi (1519–1578), who wrote a biography of calligraphers and painters, stressed that he was from Isfahan and also acknowledged that he invented Talik writing based on the letters rica and tauqah. [4; 42] At the same time Ibn Arabshah Taj Salmani was considered a man of letters and a skilled calligrapher of the Timurid period. [3; 86] Also the verses by Taj Salmani mentioned in many historical sources show that he also used his pen in poetry. [2; 461, 5; 21-22] Taj Salmani was not only a secretary, poet and statesman but also a mature historian of his time. His work "Tarikhnoma" is the first historical work written after Amir Temur's death. There is no other source of this period which describes struggle for power between successors of Amir Temur after his death and period of Khalil Sultan's rule in Turkestan in such detail. This is the uniqueness of this work.

One of the sources of the “Tarikhnoma” is the personal memoirs of Shakhrukh (1377–1447), who ruled the Uzbek state after Amir Temur and preserved the foundation of the vast kingdom established by his father.

For the Middle Ages, it was natural that some historical document was written with the exclamation of the Supreme Ruler. However, it is not uncommon to find major figures of the time among the sources of the work in addition to the head of state. One of the sources of Taj Salmani's information is Amir Shahmalik*.

* Shohmalik (died in 1426) is one of the most trusted and important officials of Amir Temur.
In the section "Continuation of the story of Hazrat Sahibkiran" the author says: "I began to write these sentences with the expressions of Giyaziddin Shahmalik, a master of words, one of the great beggars, striving for the right path, having experience in every field" [5; 35], Amir described the events of Timur's return to Samarkand after the completion of his triumphal campaign to Syria and Rum. "Mention of Azerbaijan, Iraq, Persia and the revolutions in these parts", so says Shohmalik, the narrator of the heartfelt epic and historian of this fluent account. [5; 335]

In general, Taj Salmani relied mainly on three types of sources:

1. What he saw and heard. For example, it is clear that he was among Amir Temur's supporters in the Chinese campaign. The Uzbek ruler, who visited the grave of Ahmed Yassawi on the way, has attributed the history of the flag presented by him to the shrine, Taj Salmani [5; 21-22]. There is no doubt that he saw with his own eyes and heard with his own ears the events connected with the death of the master [5; 103].

His subsequent activities in Samarkand - first at palace of Khalil Sultan*, then at palace of Ulugbek*, at least from autumn 813/1410 in the new capital of the Uzbek state Herat, in Shahrukh Dargah, it is clear that Taj Salmani was a participant and witness of the social and political life of those years [5; 29].

2. Recollections, oral testimony of witnesses and participants in the events. In several parts of his work, the author mentions his sources - the persons concerned. At the same time, in isolated cases we can see oral information without identifying the informant. In particular, in the case of emir Sheikh Nuriddin*, who fled the city in turmoil in Bukhara "according to a reliable transmitter" [5; 169]. In the case of Khalil Sultan's entry into Samarkand "a person who was versed in these events tells the following story" [5; 175], "from the words of one of the trusted persons" in the account of the countless plunderings of the state treasury occurring during the reign of Khalil Sultan [5; 232] such accents occur.

3. In the process of writing, Taj Salmani often referred to official documents, especially letters, letters of condolence, acceptances (treaties) and petitions:

1) Amir Temur's will [5; 99];

2) In connection with the death of Amir Temur, letters of condolence were sent from Otra to emirs and beks, who led the right and left wings of the army and were waiting for the order to move to China, and also to murza and beks in other parts of the country [5; 120];

3) Invitation of the Tashkent beks sent to Amir Sheikh Nuriddin and Amir Shahmalik through Amir Burunduk* [5; 143];

4) Amirzoda Khalil's letter and letter of agreement sent by Atlamish* to Amirzoda Pir Muhammad* [5; 143];

5) the letter sent by Amir Sheikh Nuriddin* and Amir Shahmalik to Amir Khoja Yusuf* and Amir Arghunshah through Bayan Temur* [5; 157];

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* Khalil Sultan - son of Mironshah, grandson of Amir Temur; In 1405-1409, he was the owner of the throne of Samarkand.
* Ulugbek - son of Shahrukh, grandson of Amir Temur; 1411 - 1447 years the governor of Turkestan.
* Sheikh Nuriddin (killed in 1411) is one of the great officials of Amir Temur.
* Burunduk is the son of Amir Jahonshahbek Barlos, one of the great amirs of Amir Temur.
* Atlamish is a member of the Kavchin clan, one of the emirs of the era of Amir Temur and Khalil Sultan.
* Pir Muhammad (1376 - 1407) - son of Muhammad Jahangir, grandson of Amir Temur.
* Bayon Temur is the head of the treasury of Samarkand.
* Khoja Yusuf is one of Amir Temur's major officials; In March 1405, Khoja Yusuf did the opposite of Sahibqiran's will by handing over the keys to the Samarkand fortress and treasury to Khalil Sultan. In May of this year, the emir was executed in Balkh on the instructions of Sultan Husain.
* Arghunshah - one of the major officials of Amir Temur; Khalil led the sultan's cabinet, he was killed in 1410 according to Shahrukh's order.
6) Shahrukh's letter to Mironshah* [5; 204];
7) Mironshah's letter to Shahrukh [5; 217];
8) Amirzade Pir Muhammad's request to Shahrukh for the murder of Amirzade Husayn [5; 244];
9) Amirzade Pir Muhammad's letter to Shahrukh (encouraging him to occupy Samarkand) [5; 257];
10) A letter written by Sayyed Khoja* Amirzoda Shahrukh Bahadir to Amir Shah Malik from his mouth without the order and order [5; 294];
11) A letter sent by Shahrukh Bahadur to Amir Shah Malik* through Jahan Malik [5; 298];
12) Shahrukh Bahadur's order that he demanded Amir Shah Malik to return to Herat [5; 315];
13) Shahrukh's order to Amirzada Pir Muhammad in Shiraz that he demanded to capture Said Khoja and send him to Herat;
14) Amirzada Shahrukh Bahadur's order to urgently return Amirzada Ulughbek Bahadir and Amir Shah Malik to the palace [5; 370] and others

Undoubtedly, Taj Salmani, who worked in the office of Amir Temur, had a high level of awareness of the palace documents. Naturally, when Shahrukh Taj commissioned Salmani to write the work, he made possible the use of the necessary documents in various cities of the kingdom, most notably the Herat and Samarkand Diwan. The fact that most of the documents used in the work are quoted verbatim only confirms our conclusion.

Although Taj Salmani seems to refer to the work of Nizamuddin Shami as a supplement to it, the Zafarnama ends with an account of events which took place between the month of Ramadan 806/March 13 - April 12, 1404, Whereas "Tarihnama" treats of Amir Temur's last major military campaign and then covers a five-year period from his return to Samarkand (muharram 807/July 10 - August 9, 1404) to the capture of Khalil Sultan (Zulkada 811/March 18 - April 17, 1409) [6; 88]. His main themes are also unique and in terms of volume and style of writing have nothing in common with the work of Nizamiddin Shami.

Taj Salmani chose a unique way to tell a story. It is evident that he did not write the work in the form of a diary or chronicle, but followed the path of describing military and political events that occurred one after another [7; 25]. The work mixes literary techniques such as saj, taklid, translation, irony, poetry and hadith, Arabic and Persian poems with historical data [8; 181, 5; 37].

Despite the fact that the work "Tarikhnoma" was commissioned by Shahrukh, the author does not rely on a single template in writing the work. Taj Salmani wrote this work reflecting his worldview, worldly and religious knowledge, knowledge of poetry, independent approach and testimonies of people who witnessed events and occurrences directly.

Three manuscript copies* of the work of the Tarihnaum have been identified around the world. One of them is in the UK and the other two are in Turkish manuscript collections. Below is a brief description of the manuscript copies of the work:

1. Copy No.159 is held in the British Museum library in London. This copy consists of 119

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* Mironshah - Amir Temur's son; In different years, Amir Temur appointed him to manage the lands of Khurasan (1380), Iran, Iraq (1393) and Azerbaijan (1402).
Sayyid Khoja is the son of Amir Temur's famous general Sheikh Ali Bahadur. Shah Rukh served in Mirza's army. He raised his head against Shahrukh several times. Yusuf Jalil was killed by Shahrukh in Tun village in Kohistan region.
Jahan Malik is the son of Amir Mulkat. One of Shahrukh's influential army chiefs. Shahrukh tried to assassinate Mirza on April 27, 1408. Amir was captured by Cherkas in Mokhan and sent to Herat. He was executed on the way.
Hans Robert Roymar abbreviated the names of these manuscripts as "B", "F", "L". According to him, "B" is the British copy, "F" is the copy kept in the Fatih Library, "L" is the copy kept in the Lola Ismail Efendi Library.

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pages and is written in Nasta'liq. The exact time of transmission is not specified. The appearance of this copy dates back to the fifteenth century. This copy is older than the other two copies of the work, which is evident primarily from the paper, writing, ink, and other features of the manuscript. The manuscript contains about one third of the work, that is, parts of the work after page 119b are missing and the name of the copyist is not given. But the manuscript contains pages 1 a-b which are not found in other manuscripts [5; 27].

This manuscript concludes with an account of a battle between Amirzada Pir Muhammad Bahadur and Amirzada Khalil Sultan, i.e. the events that took place in 808/1406 (a little more than a year after Amir Temur's death) [8; 181].

2. Copy No.4305 is kept in the Fatih library in Istanbul. The cover of the manuscript is made of cream-coloured leather and it is in Persian « كتاب تيمور قاضي فارسي » (The Persian Book of Temurname) later on « تاريخ اميرزاده شاهرخ تأليف تاج سلامة» (History of Amirzada Shahrukh by Taj Salmani) and in Arabic « كتاب في توااريخ بعض ملوك الفارس في شاهرخ بهادر » (Shahrukh Bahadur's book on the history of some Persian kings). The manuscript consists of 148 pages, each containing 15 lines. The work is written in italics and is fairly easy to read. There is no marginalization. In terms of structure, the manuscript contains two-thirds of the work. Its text is almost verbatim to the text of copy "L". That is, the text of copy "F" includes part of the manuscript "L" from page 2a to page 123b. The difference between the manuscripts is that they are in the copy "L" " نبض الله الرحمن الرحيم " (In the name of Allah Almighty), there is no space in that place of the copy "F" and the text of the copy "F" " نبض را در " if it begins with the word "L", this word is omitted in the text of copy "L". But that word is present in copy "B". From this we know that the person who copied copy "F" also used copy "B". At the same time, the correspondence between the text of copy "F" and copy "L" in the following places, even though mistakes were made in the same places in both copies, means that both copies were used in the process. copying copy "F".

This manuscript ends with a description of Amirzada Umar's movement from Shiraz to Khorasan and Shahrukh's transfer of the land and the Mozandaran region to Amirzada Umar. The process of handing over the manuscript is incomplete [5; 28-29] and its page 148b ends with the following two lines:

" است" " أب راي صايب و تدير ثاقب در انگيز حيلآ جهانگیري و غيتي ستاني نفت طلسمه، بظليمومي"

3. 304 copies stored in the library of Lola Ismail Efendi in Turkey. The cover of the manuscript is made of malla-colored leather and consists of 177 pages in total. The writing surface is separated by a colored border. The number of rows is variable - 19/20. Above the cover of the manuscript « تاريخ اواخر تيمور و » (History of Temur), « تاج سلامة» (Taj Salmoniy) and « تاريخ تيمور» (Temurname) were written [5; 29].

The work is written in italics and is fairly easy to read. The manuscript's headings are highlighted in red, ayats, poems and verses in Arabic and Persian are written in blue, verses written by the author and verses beginning with the Arabic phrase « لموزف » are in malla, and ayats from the Koran, hadiths, sayings and wise words are written in dark red ink [5; 29-30], which makes the work easy to read. The manuscript also mentions the time when the work was transcribed (mid Sha'bân 988/late September 1580) and the name of the copyist (Muhammad ibn Imâm al-Bursawi).

The copy "L" differs from the other two copies in the completeness of the text of the work, the small number of errors and defects, the orderliness of the copying of the text of the work, the timing of the copying, and the presence of the author's name. These features further enhance its scholarly value.

The main parts of the text of the "Tarikhnama" in this copy are: the reason it was written (4a); Amir Temur's route to Mongolia and China (27a); Amir Temur's death and measures taken by two emirs, Sheikh Nuruddeen and Shahmalik, commander of the army after it (34b); the capture of the Samarqand throne by Amirzada Khalil in mid-Ramadan 807 /March 1405). /March 1405
and the incalculable plunder of the state treasury (60b); Description of the ladies (suitors) and concubines sent by Amirzade Khalil (162b); Capture of Amirzade Khalil (176a).

The manuscript depicts events that took place on the eve of the capture of Movarunnahr by ruler Shahrukh of Khorasan, i.e. on 12th day of Zulkada in 811 / March 29, 1409, when the news about Amirzade Khalil's capture reached Samarkand and ending events of Amirzad Muhammad Jahangir sending people to seal the doors of treasury and storehouses [9; 8].

The last date in the historical processes reflected in the work is the event of Ulugbek handing over a valuable sword obtained by Amir Temur during his campaign to Syria (807/1404), but no date is given.

The first written information about Taj Salmani and his work "Tarikhnoma" can be found in the work "Kashf uz-zunun" by Khoja Khalifa (1609–1657) [17; 5]. It contains a commentary on Taj Salmani's work, which includes works by Shahrukh and Ulugbek [10; 176]. It is worth noting that the study of the work "Tarikhnoma" began at a time when the work was created. Particularly, Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi used the Tarikhnoma as the main source when describing the death of Amir Temur and political struggle during the reign of Zafarnoma.

The works containing information about the work and its author are mostly of an introductory nature, and sometimes thoughts of scientific importance are expressed in passing. These include works by W. Barthold, W. Hinz, and J. Woods [6, 11, 12]. At the same time, scholars such as Sh. Ando' and I. Binbash emphasized aspects of "Tarikhnoma" related to the work of Sharafuddin Ali Yazdi "Zafarnoma" [13], and Iranian scholar F. Rustami interpreted the work "Tarikhnoma" as a work written to justify the legitimacy of Timurid rule [15]. This idea has also been put forward in the works of such researchers as S. Andro, J. Woods, B. Manz, I. Binbash, A. Saburi [5, 6, 13, 14, 16].

As for translations of the “Tarikhnoma”, it was first translated into German in 1956 by Hans Robert Reumar and published as «Šams al-husn» (شوش الحظ) [17]. A Turkish translation of the work was made by Ismail Aka Lola in 1988, based on a copy in the library of Ismail Efendi and a translation by Hans Ro'bart Roimar [9]. The Tarikhnoma was also translated into Russian in 1991 and its author is Ziya Bunyodov [18].

The full Persian text of was written in 2014 by Akbar Saburi. He published this edition based on two manuscripts of the work in Turkey, a copy in the library of the British Museum, and the Persian text of the work based on research in the process of translations by Hans Robert Roymar and Ismail Aka [5].

Conclusion

It is seen that "Tarikhnoma" by Taj Salmani was created with regard to the time of its creation, originality of sources, value of the information provided, author's approach, manuscript distribution of the work in very few copies, while the language of the work differs from primary works of Timurid period, and at the same time, the work presents certain difficulties to readers even in the period when the work was written due to its origin, it has very little coverage, almost none in relation to the Uzbek subject.

Reference:

4. منشي قمي، قاضي احمد اکس تنگستان هنر. بنیاد فرهنگ ایران. ص1352. 393.


