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INFORMATION ON AMIR TEMUR'S VIRTUES IN THE HISTORICAL SOURCES

Abstract. *This article examines the personality of Amir Temur as a statesman, military commander, and patron of construction and development, with particular emphasis on his outstanding moral and human virtues as reflected in historical sources. Drawing upon The Code of Temur (Temur Tuzuklari) and the works of Sharaf al-Din Ali Yazdi, Ibn Arabshah, Ibn Khaldun, Mu'in al-Din Natanzi, and Salah al-Din Tashkandi, the study analyzes Amir Temur's commitment to justice, devotion to the welfare of his people, attitude toward scholarship and science, policy of construction and urban development, generosity, leadership qualities, and fundamental principles of state administration. Furthermore, the article highlights Amir Temur's significant role in the development of the Uzbek statehood tradition and elucidates the contemporary relevance of his spiritual and political legacy.*

Keywords: *Amir Temur, Sahibqiran, Temur Tuzuklari (The Code of Temur), statehood, justice, construction and development, science and scholarship, public administration, historical sources, human virtues.*

INTRODUCTION

Amir Temur is recognized in the history of the world as an eminent statesman and an outstanding military commander. In the history of Uzbek statehood, the name and legacy of Sahibqiran occupy an unparalleled position. From the period following Amir Temur's reign to the present day, he has been remembered with profound respect, admiration, and pride not only throughout Turkestan but also across the world. In particular, the Jadid intellectuals of Turkestan regarded Amir Temur's invaluable contributions to

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the progress of the nation as an exemplary model in their efforts to unite society around the ideals of patriotism and enlightenment. Following the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, extensive efforts have been undertaken to study the nation's history objectively and to restore historical truth. In this context, the life and activities of Amir Temur, as well as his distinguished role in the history of Uzbek statehood, have been the subject of comprehensive scholarly research.

Amir Temur's father was Amir Muhammad Taraghay Bahadur, a member of the ruling family of Kesh, while his mother was Takina Moh Begim, the daughter of an official who served in the judicial administration (qadi's office) of Bukhara. His full name was Sahibqiran Amir Temur ibn Amir Taraghay ibn Amir Barqul. Since Amir Taraghay's family was responsible for the administration of the Kesh domain, Amir Temur developed remarkable leadership qualities from an early age. On his maternal side, he descended from an educated and highly respected family renowned in Bukhara for its expertise in Islamic law (Sharia). Consequently, alongside his political leadership, Amir Temur acquired a profound knowledge of the Islamic sciences. Historical sources preserve numerous accounts demonstrating that Amir Temur was not only a powerful sovereign and the ruler of a vast empire but also a man of exceptional moral character and noble human virtues. He was distinguished by his wisdom, intelligence, and extraordinary foresight. In "Temur Tuzuklari" (The Code of Temur), he describes his approach as follows:

MAIN PART

"Before undertaking any task, I would first determine the means by which I could successfully accomplish it. Through sound judgment, firm determination, sincerity, perseverance, caution, foresight, and careful consideration of future consequences, I would bring every undertaking to its successful conclusion... Those who participate in consultation must remain united and steadfast in both word and action. They must never abandon the tasks they have resolved to accomplish. (Temur Tuzuklari, 1991:16).

One of Amir Temur's most remarkable personal qualities was his patience and steadfastness. In pursuing his great ambitions, he consistently demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and an unwavering strength of will. The historian Ibn Arabshah describes Amir Temur's youth as follows: "From an early age, he grew up intelligent, open-hearted, courageous, resolute, strong, and highly capable. He associated with his

peers, particularly the sons of viziers, and spent his time in the company of those among the sons of amirs who possessed qualities similar to his own. (Ibn Arabshah, 1992:72).

Construction and urban development, including the building of mosques, madrasas, mausoleums, and, in general, architectural monuments intended to serve the public, rank among Sahibqiran Amir Temur's greatest achievements. In "Temurnama", Salah al-Din Tashkandi writes: "His Excellency Amir Temur built magnificent mausoleums over the blessed graves of many saints. He also constructed numerous mosques and madrasas in many places, all of which are well documented in historical chronicles. (Tashkandi, 1990:326).

Amir Temur required that construction works be carried out with the utmost precision, elegance, grandeur, and durability. As stated in "Temur Tuzuklari" (The Code of Temur): "I ordered that in every city and every village mosques, madrasas, and khanqahs be built; that langarkhanas (charitable shelters and relief centers for the poor and the needy) be established; that hospitals be constructed for the sick; and that physicians be appointed to serve in them. (Temur Tuzuklari, 1991:100).

According to Sharaf al-Din Ali Yazdi in "Zafarnama": "In truth, justice and compassion toward his subjects were innate qualities of His Majesty's noble character. His lofty aspiration was devoted to the prosperity of cities and to improving the welfare of the servants of God. (Yazdi, 1996:253).

Amir Temur paid particular attention to construction and urban development in the principal cities of Mawarannahr, especially in the capital city of Samarkand and its surrounding areas. As Ibn Arabshah notes: "He founded a number of towns in the vicinity of Samarkand and named them after great and renowned capital cities." In undertaking the construction of new architectural monuments, Sahibqiran ensured that they would serve the interests of the people, society, and the state. He ordered that these structures be built with exceptional strength and durability so that they would remain beneficial and continue to serve future generations for a long time (Ibn Arabshah, 1992:127).

Generosity

According to Zafarnama, on the eve of a battle, fresh melons had been brought to Amir Temur. Although his attendants suggested that they could be sent to the opposing commander in ordinary wooden containers, Amir Temur ordered that they be presented on a platter made of gold. Sharaf al-Din Ali Yazdi interprets this act as an expression of Sahibqiran's "royal generosity and gracious benevolence. (Yazdi, 1996:248).

Sahibqiran met the eminent philosopher, scholar, and historian Ibn Khaldun in the city of Damascus. In his autobiography, *Tarjumat al-Hal* (Autobiography), Ibn Khaldun describes Amir Temur as follows: “He (Amir Temur) was an exceptionally intelligent, learned, and perceptive man. He was fond of scholarly debate and remained steadfast in his convictions. (Ibn Khaldun, 1996:52).

Amir Temur held knowledge and learning in the highest esteem and greatly respected scholars and intellectuals. He himself possessed a profound understanding of history and showed a particular interest in studying the lives and reigns of former rulers. As Ibn Arabshah writes: “Temur was deeply knowledgeable about the lives of kings and rulers and was the father and mother of the history of both the East and the West. (Ibn Arabshah, 1992:227).

In *Muntakhab al-Tawarikh*, Mu’in al-Din Natanzi highly praises Amir Temur’s intellectual virtues, stating: “Amir Sahibqiran maintained exceptionally close relations with scholars, philosophers, and men of learning. He honored and respected them to an extraordinary degree. Through listening to historical works, he acquired profound knowledge of the genealogies and biographies of nations, the histories and achievements of the Turkish, Arab, and Persian rulers, as well as many other branches of historical learning. (Natanzi, 1996:178).

Sahibqiran was also a remarkably sincere and considerate commander in his relations with the soldiers under his command. Undoubtedly, uniting and leading a vast army required exceptional personal qualities, including the ability to win the confidence and loyalty of numerous warriors and inspire them to pursue a common objective. In “*Temur Tuzuklari*” (The Code of Temur), Amir Temur describes the methods by which he united thousands of soldiers: “To some I showed generosity and kindness; with others I sought reconciliation and mutual understanding; another group I endeavored to win over through material rewards. As for the rest, I considered it wise to encourage them with kind words, covenants, and sincere promises. (Temur Tuzuklari, 1991:31).

Amir Temur held those who remained loyal to him in the highest esteem. According to the accounts of contemporary historians, Sahibqiran never used harsh or offensive language during his councils. Ibn Arabshah describes his character as follows: “He disliked jesting and falsehood and had no inclination toward frivolous amusement. Even when honesty brought him personal hardship, he remained devoted to truthfulness. He

admired the courageous, the brave, and the valiant. He possessed impeccable judgment, extraordinary insight, and incomparable good fortune. His greatness was matched by his dignity; he spoke with firm determination and remained truthful even in times of adversity. (Amir Temur and Ulugh Beg, 1996:25).

The twelve qualities of a ruler

According to Temur Tuzuklari (The Code of Temur), Amir Temur maintained that a ruler must possess twelve essential qualities, emphasizing that the neglect of even one of them would undermine the stability of the state. These qualities are: first, to remain true to one's word; second, to uphold justice; third, to make decisions independently; fourth, to be resolute in one's judgments; fifth, to ensure that one's decrees are implemented; sixth, not to entrust the affairs of the kingdom indiscriminately to others; seventh, to listen to the opinions of the people; eighth, to act with careful deliberation rather than haste; ninth, to maintain the army and the subjects in a balance between hope and fear; tenth, to govern according to one's own independent judgment; eleventh, not to share one's sovereign authority with others; and twelfth, to preserve the confidentiality of state affairs while remaining vigilant and well informed about the actions of others.

CONCLUSION

Indeed, Amir Temur was distinguished by unparalleled generosity and exemplary moral character. He took genuine pleasure in benefiting others, found satisfaction in performing acts of kindness, and accomplished numerous noble deeds without arrogance or self-glorification. These outstanding personal qualities constituted one of the principal foundations upon which he established a powerful state and earned recognition as one of the greatest rulers of his age.

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