

Political Services of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani:

By

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Abstract:

The bureaucrat turned political leader Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was, no doubt, a man of letters. After the completion of his education, he joined government service as Naib Tehsildar but he resigned the job so as to utilize his potentials and skills for the welfare of his homeland and common Pashtun. He laid the foundation of Latkhana Movement in order to introduce progressive thoughts in politics. He was the trusted political companion of Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai. He was well-wisher of political movements of the oppressed. Sain was an icon of Pashtun-Baloch unity. But he never compromised when the identity of Pashtun was endangered. For instance, Sain stood by the side of Samad Khan Achakzai when a rift emerged in National Awami Party over the merger of Pashtun majority Chief Commissioner Province of British Balochistan into Qalat State Union for formation of present Balochistan. He took active part and played leading role in the protest movement against the delimitation of constituencies in Quetta which, according to his political party, were meant to turn the majority of Pashtun in Quetta into minority. Sain was staunch supporter of democracy. His political thoughts and teachings instilled love for democracy in the leadership and workers of his party. The presence of Sain can be felt in Waror Pashtun, NAP, Pashtunkhwa NAP and Pashtunkhwa MAP due to his unforgettable role in the propagation of his progressive political thoughts.

Keywords: Baloch, Balochistan, Democracy, Dictatorship, Latkhana, Movement, Nationalist, Nationalism, Pashto, Pashtun, Pashtunkhwa, Politics, Political, Progressive, Sain, Services, Sherani, Quetta, Thoughts. Etc.

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Introduction:

One of the key purposes of this research article, no doubt, is to discuss the political services rendered by Sain Kamal Khan Sherani for the welfare of the masses of province Balochistan. It is also meant to throw light on the political services that Kamal Khan rendered for the Pashtun, especially, the Pashtuns dwelling in the Pashtun belt of province Balochistan. Moreover, the irrefutable role played by Sain Kamal Khan Sherani in the Pashtun Nationalist Movement is also intended to be discussed in this research article. Another cardinal purpose of this research article is to discuss the role of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani in maintaining Pashtun-Baloch unity in the province.

Sain Kamal Khan Sherani- A Man of Letters:

Born on January 3, 1924 in the Shana Ponga area of district Zhob, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani spent his early childhood in his native village Shana Ponga, But Sain did not consider his date of birth accurate and he was of the view that he was at least two or three years older than the date of birth that had been written in his school record by one of his primary teachers (Muhammad.2014, pp.12). Essa Khan Sherani, the father of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani, was a businessman by profession and travelled to various parts of the Indian sub-continent. Impressed by the prosperity and development of the developed and big cities of the Indian sub-continent, Essa Khan Sherani of the backward Zhob made his mind to educate his elder son Kamal Khan (Hasan.2014, pp.127). Although uneducated himself, Essa Khan Sherani was a person of vision as he had realized that the backwardness of his area could be eliminated with the help of the Education (Muhammad.2015, pp.13). But there was a problem that there did not exist any school in Shana Ponga at that time. Essa Khan feared that he would not be able to equip his son Kamal Khan with education. Fortunately, there came an idea in the mind of Essa Khan Sherani and he decided to take help of one of his friends. Karmai, a village located to the east of Shana Ponga, had a primary school at that time. Essa Khan Sherani sought the help of his friend Balu Khan who was the resident of Karmai village. He sent his son Kamal Khan Sherani to Karmai village so that he might be able to get education (Hasan.2014, pp.127). Apart from Kamal Khan, two more children were also residing in the residence of Balu Khan for getting education. One was Naseeb Ullah Sherani, who later became an officer while the other was the well-known Pashto language scholar Kamal Uddin Kamal (Muhammad.2015, pp.13). Sain Kamal Khan studied till class 5th in Primary School Karmai and went to Zhob city where he studied till class

8th. Sain Kamal Khan Sherani passed middle exam with flying colors and he was awarded scholarship for matric (Hasan.2017).

In 1939, he went to Pishin to persuade his education. It should be noted that due to 1935 Earthquake most of the infrastructure in Quetta was not in workable condition, so Sandamen High School had been shifted to Pishin (Asad.2013). In Pishin, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani befriended a Baloch student Abdullah Jan Jamalidini who had come from Noshki to persuade education on scholarship (Abdullahjan.2013). Mama Abdullah Jan Jamalidini like Sain Kamal Khan was destined to serve his nation in future. Dr Khudaydad, who became Sain's trusted companion in Latkhana Movement, was one class senior to Sain and Mama Abdullah Jan in Sandamen High school Pishin. After completion of matric, both Kamal Khan and Abdullah Jan intended to go to Aligarh so as to persuade further education. But they changed their decision on the advice of their teacher Muhammad Hasham Khan Ghalzi (Asad.2013). They went to Islamia College Peshawar. Sain Kamal Khan Sherani got BA (Hon.) in Economics in 1945 from Islamia College Peshawar. He stood first and was awarded gold medal for his performance (Hasan.2017). Prof. Musa Kaleem Babar, Prof. Tamoor Shah and Prof. Sahibzada Idress were Kamal Khan's teachers in Islamia College Peshawar. Kamal Khan Sherani was greatly impressed from Prof. Sahabzada Idress who motivated him to study various books including literature, philosophy and history (Asad.2013).

After completion of his formal education, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani made his mind to seek government job. In 1946, he was appointed as a Naib Tehsildar, one of the coveted jobs even today. Kamal Khan was first posted as Naib Tehsildar in Jat Pat, a Baloch area of the province (Hasan. 2014). But Dr. Shah Muhammad Marri is of the view that Sain's first posting as Naib Tehsildar was in Toba Achakzai of Gulistan, a Pashtun area of the province (Muhammad.2014). Sain served as Tehsildar for 5 years. During his stay in Gulistan as an officer, Sain Kamal Khan came under the influence of a Pashtun nationalist leader Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai. As we know that Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was an educated, open-minded and progressive person. It was impossible for a person like Sain Kamal Khan to refrain himself from the influence of such a charismatic leader like Samad Khan Achakzai who also possessed journalistic skills. The teachings and politics of Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai generated fermentation in Kamal Khan to serve his nation. And he decided to quit government job so as to devote his life for the service of his own nation (Hasan.2018). After the resignation of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani, his friends Abdullah Jan Jamalidini

and Bahadur Khan Bangulzai also quit their government jobs of Naib Tehsildar (Abdullahjan.2013).

Political Services of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani:

As stated earlier, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani stepped down in order that he might serve his own people. But, the political services of Sain are not confined only to the Pashtun. He also supported the respective political cause of Baloch, Sindhi, Serahiki etc. (Hasan.2018). He was, no doubt, the staunch supporter of the oppressed.

After tendering their respective resignations, the first step taken by the educated and former bureaucrats was the foundation of “Latkhana Movement”. They initiated this movement in a rented house which was located in Balochi street Quetta (Abdullahjan.2013). “Lat” is a Pashto word which means someone who considers himself free from social responsibilities. But, the Lat of Latkhana were the educated people whose main purpose was the introduction of progressive trends in the politics of the province. The name “Latkhana” was proposed by Sain Kamal Khan Sherani (Hasan.2018). Latkhana was the first political and literary platform of the province which was spreading progressive thoughts. It, no doubt, favored the left politics. The continuous struggle of the former bureaucrats under the leadership of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani attracted the young and educated people of the province. This movement spread awareness about the progressive political thoughts in the educated people of the province (Asad.2013). Many educated people practically joined Latkhana. The leading members of this movement were Dr. Khudaydad, Mama Abdullah Jan Jamaldini, Badur Khan Bangulzai (Hasan.2014). But, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was the leading figure of Latkhana Movement. As Mama Abdullah Jan Jamaldini writes in his book “Latkhana” that the center of attraction and the most important speaker of the Latkhana Movement was Sain Kamal Khan Sherani (Abdullahjan.2013).

Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was staunch supporter of the political movements run for the achievement of provincial autonomy. He always welcomed the alliance of the political parties of the small provinces. He believed that the symbolic federation and strong provinces can ensure development and prosperity in Pakistan. Although he was himself a Pashtun, Sain always expressed good wishes for the political movements of Baloch. Many Baloch political and social activists were proud to be the followers and students of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani (Hasan.2014). As Kamal Khan himself was a nationalist, he implanted nationalism in the minds of the educated Baloch students and Baloch activists. One thing is manifest that the nationalism of

Sain Kamal Khan was not based on the hatred for other nations, so he inculcated Baloch nationalism in the minds of Baloch youth and advised them to attach themselves to the Baloch nationalist movement. The love and good wishes of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani for the Baloch nation generated love in the heart of an ordinary Baloch for Sain Kamal Khan Sherani. The title “Sain” was given to Kamal Khan Sherani by the Baloch nation, especially, by the ordinary Baloch (Muhammad.2014).

Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was an untiring Pashtun nationalist leader. During his stay in Islamia College Peshawar, he came in contact with the politics of Kaka Jee Sunober Hussain and Mufti Abdul Rahim Populzai and his liking for Pashtun nationalism grew in this way (Hasan.2018). Even during Sain’s school time, Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai was active in politics from the platform of Injuman Watan, the first political party of the province. Kamal Khan might have influenced from the political struggle of the Injuman Watan (Asad.2013). But, Sain became formal Pashtun nationalist when he quit one of the most coveted jobs and started nationalist politics. He became the companion of Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai. Sain was one of those leading political figures who stood by the side of Samad Khan by thick and thin. Sain was one of the most trusted companion of Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai. He was part of “Waror Pashtun”, a political party formed by Samad Khan after the establishment of Pakistan. He supported and propagated the political thoughts and ideology of Samad Khan Achakzai (Ghani.2012). Sain became part of National Awami Party (NAP) when “Waror Pashtun” merged into NAP. He openly negated the idea of one unit because it was fatal for the identity of small nationhood of Pakistan. Sain felt the gap of leadership created due to detainment of Samad Khan Achakzai by the General Ayub’s regime for Achakzai’s struggle against the formation of One Unit (Hasan.2018). Sain tried his level best fill the gap but the nature of Sain’s struggle was really very different from that of other leaders. He was never interested in delivering speeches, presiding over meetings and public gatherings and earning fame. He wanted to be unknown struggler. But, he of course was the teacher of political leaders. Sain was the tower of strength for the Pashtun nationalists. He provided ideological guidance to the Pashtun nationalists when Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai was behind the bars during Ayub’s dictatorial regime (Hasan.2017).

Though Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was a well-wisher of all nationhood living in Pakistan, yet he never compromised on the national identity of Pashtun nation. After the dissolution of one unit, when the former Chief Commissioner Province of British Balochistan was merged with Qalat State

Union so as to form the present province Balochistan, Sain Kamal Khan Sherani opposed the idea. Sain Kamal Khan was of the opinion that the merger of Pashtun areas of former Chief Commissioner Province would eliminate the distinct identity of Pashtuns living on the historical homeland for centuries (Shaukat.2007). A rift emerged in the National Awami Party over the merger of Chief Commissioner Province of British Balochistan into Qalat State Union as Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai formed his own political party named as Pashtunkhwa National Awami Party (Ghani.2012). As Sain was the vehement opponent of the merger, he stood by the side of Samad Khan. Moreover, He was one of the distinguished leaders of Pashtunkhwa NAP (Shaukat.2007).

Sain Kamal Khan continued his struggle for the formation of a united Pashtun province within the boundaries of Pakistan. He struggled for the merger of former Chief Commissioner Province of British Balochistan, the Pashtun belt of province Balochistan, with former North West Frontier Province (NWFP) so as to form the united Pashtun province under the name of "Pashtunkhwa" or "Pashtunistan" or "Afghania" (Ghani.2012). Sain also struggled for the imposition of Pashto as the official language of their proposed united Pashtun province. His struggle was not only confined to the declaration of Pashto as an official language of the United Pashtun province but he wanted Pashto to be the medium of instruction in the educational institutions, to be the language of the court, to be the language of the press and to be the language of the market of the united Pashtun province (Hasan.2018).

After the martyrdom of Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai, Sain Kamal Khan continued his political struggle under the leadership of former's son Mehmood Khan Achakzai. Sain was the political companion and the trusted friend of Samad Khan Achakzai, so he remained on the side of Samad Khan till the last breath of Achakzai. Sain continued his political companionship with Samad Khan's son Mehmood Khan Achakzai (Ghani.2012). In Sain's view, Mehmood Khan was a valiant political leader who had courage to say that which other politicians feared to express in solitude and seclusion (Asad. 2013). Sain's political advice was always welcomed and implemented by Mehmood Khan Achakzai as he considered Sain as one of the most aware political teacher (Ghani. 2012). Sain played decisive role in the formation of Pashtunkhwa MAP as he was a staunch supporter of the alliance formed between Pashtunkhwa NAP and Pashtunkhwa Mazdoor Kisan Party. The success of that alliance paved the way for the formation of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) (Ghani.2012).

Sain Kamal Khan Sherani took active part in the protest movement run by his party Pashtunkhwa MAP against the delimitation of constituencies in Quetta district. Sain was of the view that the delimitation was harmful for the Pashtun and was meant to convert the majority of Pashtun into minority. He supported the historical hunger strike of Abdul Rahim Mandokhel, deputy Chairman of Pashtunkhwa MAP, against the delimitation. He demanded the government of that time to review its decision about delimitation because that decision was meant to harm both the interests of Pashtuns and the Pashtun-Baloch unity. Sain presided meetings held against the delimitation so as to convey the message that he was not ambiguous about Pashtun nationalism and was not in favor of any compromise when the national interests of his nationhood and homeland were endangered (Shaukat.2007).

Sain Kamal Khan Sherani was vehement opponent of dictatorship. He supported democracy and considered the weakest democracy better than the best dictatorship. His teachings in the favor of democracy promoted the hatred for the dictatorship in the hearts of his party's leadership and workers. And those leaders and workers never hesitated to sacrifice even their precious lives for the sake of protection and restoration of democracy in the country. For instance, four workers of Pashtunkhwa MAP lost their lives when they were protesting for the restoration of democracy in the country during the dictatorial regime of General Zia Ul Haq (Ghani.2012). The credit of role of Pashtunkhwa MAP for the protection of democracy and opposition of dictatorship, no doubt, goes to Sain Kamal Khan Sherani along with other leaders like Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai, Abdul Razaq Doutani, Sher Ali Bacha, Mehmood Khan Achakzai and Abdul Rahim Mandokhel (Hasan.2018).

Sain Kamal Khan's teaching paved the way for the formation of Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement (PONM) during General Mushraff's regime. PONM not only raised voice for the constitutional and fundamental rights of the people of the small nationhood but it also challenged and gave tough time to the dictatorship of Mushraff. Sain Kamal Khan Sherani also played a decisive role in the formation of an alliance between Pashtunkhwa MAP and Awami National Party during Mushraff's regime. Sain Kamal Khan's teaching are to be given credit for bringing Pashtunkhwa MAP in the alliance of other political parties for the restoration of democracy. One of such alliance was All Parties Democratic Movement (APDM) during Mushraff's regime. Even after the death of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani, his teachings and arguments in the favor of democracy are one of the factors

that compel his party leaders and workers to support democracy and oppose and resist dictatorship (Hasan.2018).

Conclusion:

The unforgettable political services rendered by Sain Kamal Khan Sherani are countless. Sain was one of the most educated and politically aware personality of our homeland. He possessed a creative mind. The introduction of progressive thoughts in politics of the province in the form of Latkhana is the invaluable political service of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani. He played vital role in the establishment of Pashtun-Baloch unity. He supported very political movement of the oppressed and was a well-wisher of the political movements of the small nationhood in Pakistan. Sain Kamal Khan's irrefutable role in Pashtun nationalist movement strengthened Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai as the later found Sain on his side on every occasion. The political teaching of Sain Kamal Khan Sherani injected love for democracy and hatred for dictatorship in the minds of the leadership and workers of his political party.

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