

Balban's Theory of Kingship (1266-1286)

Balban was very strong and powerful Sultan of Delhi Sultanate. He had seen the reign of Iltutmish, Razia Sultan and Nasimuddin Mahmud that resulted him to think apart from all Sultan.

To overcome the internal as well as external (in the form of Mongols) and to restore the glory of kingship, Balban decided to bring a concrete and established form of administration. So that he introduced a concept of kingship generally known as "Kingship theory of Balban". This system of kingship was on the pattern of 'Sasanid Empire' and the 'Abbasids Concept of Caliphate in Baghdad'. By this way Balban improved the status of king and its dignity.

1. Nature of Kingship, theory of Balban was similar to that of theory of "Divine right to king". He took up the title of "Zilli Illahi" or shadow of God. Prof. K.N. Nizami opinion was that Balban thought that the king was

the vice regency of God on earth and in its dignity and it was next to Prophet hood. In the discharge of his kingship he was at all times inspired and guided by God. The source of power lays with God and not to nobles and peoples. Balban believed in despotism and claimed descent from the Turkish Avars of Turan and always kept himself aloof from people.

He introduced sajda and Paibos or kissing of the feet - the monarch in the court means total surrender before king. Namoz system was followed to show the dignity of king or court. The tall and with naked sword, the guard surrounded the king. The court dress was prescribed for the nobles. Wine was prohibited. No body could smile or laugh in the court - as this decorum was self Balban follow when he got message of the death of his son. No sign or sadness was seen on the face of Balban. The routine administration was carried. Barni says says that the total or high prestige of king was maintained in the court. No one was dare to take liberty.

2. Destitution of the forty (chehelghani):-

Balban after getting throne he wanted to crush the group of mighty forty people group or chehelghani, because they had frequent interference in the work of the Sultan. Balban was self a member of this group

and know the power of this group as well as the despatch in the wake of Sultan & Hattunoh and Rasis Sultan faced. He punished severely prominent officers, confiscated the lands and jagirs, imposed heavy fines, taxes and made them powerless. Among these noble some like Malik Baghbag, Heibal Khan, Amir Khan and Sher Khan etc. As L.P. Sharma thought that the power of Sultan and dignity of his family was possible only by breaking the power of the nobles.

Raising a strong Army :-

Balban knew the importance of a strong army to maintain justice, to repel foreign invasion and to suppress internal revolts as well as to uphold the glory of his throne. He increased the number of his soldiers, old and inefficient soldiers were replaced by young, efficient, experienced and loyal soldiers. He paid them good salaries and took personal interest in their training. He was able to crush the uprising at Doab, Badayun, Ketcher and Anroka etc and also crushing the anti-social elements and anti-government elements.

organisation of a strong spy-system :-

Balban organised a strong network of spy-system to protect the country and his people from thieves, robbers and rebels. These spies played an important role in tracing the conspiracies and unearthing the intrigues of his armies and nobles and subordinates etc.