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ALISHER NAVOI AND THE HISTORY OF ROME

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ABSTRACT

The article emphasizes that Alisher Navoi was well-versed in world history, and his work "Tarihi muluki Ajam" provides information about the history of the great empires of the ancient world and their relations. The author focuses on the history of Rome in the work, notes related to the activities of some emperors, the relationship between Rome and Ajam, and explains how they were interpreted by Navoi.

KEYWORDS

Alisher Navoi, history, Rome, Caesar, Emperor, interstate relations, notes and data, interpretation, "Tarihi muluki Ajam," Byzantium.

INTRODUCTION

Alisher Navoi's work is distinguished by its immense scope. This feature, characteristic of Renaissance artists, is also evident in the works of Navoi, including the geography of his dastans. In them, one can observe the development of the plot and the events depicted in the vast territory from Chin to Arabia, from India to Rome. The great poet had a deep knowledge of geography and world history. This is evidenced by the

content of his literary and scientific works. "Tarihi muluki Ajam" contains information not only about the history of Ajam, but also about the history of the other great empires of the ancient world - the Turkic Khaganate, Rome (Byzantium), and their relations. Among them, notes and scenes related to the activities of Roman rulers deserve special attention.



Navoi uses the form of the Roman name common in the tradition of Eastern historiography, that is, he calls it Rum. In his works, this term is used equally in relation to the Roman Empire in general and Vizantium (Eastern Roman Empire). It should be noted that Navoi mentions only Octavian Augustus as "Augustus the Stubborn" from among the Roman emperors. When speaking of other emperors, all of them are referred to as "qaysar," "Rum Qaysar," which is the title used in Eastern tradition for the rulers of Rome. In such cases, it is important to determine which emperor the author was referring to, and this is possible, as a certain part of the information given in Navoi's work is also available in other sources, including studies devoted to the history of Rome. Based on their comparison, the time of the events, what historical figures are mentioned, and others, it is possible to draw conclusions about which ruler is being discussed in one place or another. As a result of our research based on this, we were able to identify Navoi's notes and information about the activities of emperors such as Valerian, Theodosius, Julian, Mauritius, and Anastasius.

It is known that Octavian Augustus was the first emperor of Rome. Prior to that, Rome was a republic and ruled by consuls. Following the assassination of Julius Caesar, Octavian began his political career. He was Caesar's nephew. Octavian, victorious in the political struggle, avenged Caesar's murderers. Later, he established his monopoly in Rome

by defeating his main political rival, Marcus Antonius. The years of Octavian's reign are considered to be the most powerful period of the Roman Empire.[2-593].

The name of Octavian Augustus is mentioned by Navoi only once in his works. In "Tarikh-i muluki Ajam," he states that there is information about the fact that Jesus was arrested at that time in the mention of Shapur bin Ashk from the dynasty of the Ashkanids, and says that "Va Agustus was a muosir to the stubborn one" Jesus asserts that Shapur bin Ashk and Octavian lived at the same time [3-620]. Octavian was born in 63 BC and died in 14 AD. Jesus was born in the first year of the Common Era (calculation begins with his birth year) and lived to be 44 years old. When Octavian died, Jesus died. He was 14 years old.

In 252-260 AD, Emperor Valerian ruled Rome. This century was a period of political instability and chaos in the Roman Empire. During these years, imperial power was weakened, and rulers often changed. Most of them were military, and at every opportunity they took power. Valerian was one of these emperors.

Alisher Navoi's work "Tarihi muluki Ajam" contains some notes about the life of this ruler. As mentioned above, Navoi does not name the emperor, but refers to him as "the stubborn one." According to him, there was a war between the stubborn ruler and Shah Shapur bin Ardasher, who belonged to the Sasanian dynasty. The reason for this was that the



persecutor exceeded his limits. "The persecutor of Rome has invaded his limits," Navoi writes about this. Shapur besieged and conquered the city of Nisibin, which belonged to Rum, and also captured the treasures of the stubborn ruler. After that, the stubborn man admitted defeat and was forced to pay tribute to Shapour. If we turn to sources and historical research related to the history of Rome, it becomes clear that the Emperor who was sitting on the Roman throne at that time and was defeated by Shopur bin Ardasher was Valerian, and Navoi meant this ruler when he said that he was stubborn. This information is also confirmed by studies on the history of Iran. They note that Shapour bin Ardasher (Shapour I) fought and defeated the Roman emperor Valerian in 260 BC. Valerian was captured. Shopur used the emperor, like ordinary people, in the construction of the dam. For this reason, this dam was later called "Bandi Qaysar" (Caesar Dam) [4 -112]. These subsequent details, namely the capture of Valerian and his use in the construction of the dam, are not found in Navoi's work. In Navoi's work, one of the scenes related to the history of Rome is connected to an emperor, Theodosius, and his son.

It is known from sources that Theodosius was on the throne from 379 to 395. He was extremely cautious in his domestic and foreign policy, particularly in seeking to establish good relations with the Sasanian Empire. In 387, Theodosius managed to conclude an alliance

with Shapur III. They shared Armenia by mutual consent. In addition, the agreement between the two contained an article granting Chopur III the right of guardianship over the son of Emperor Theodosius.

Navoi also drew attention to the unique relationship that existed between Shapur III (Navoi calls him Shapur binni Shapur) and the Rum Emperor, and emphasized this in "Tarihi Muluki Ajam." Most importantly, he dwells in detail on the issue of guardianship. According to Navoi's words about this, the initiative came from the Rum sultan (Navoi calls him "Rum sultan" in one place and "sultan" in two places), and he himself raised the issue. In the "Tarikh-i muluki Ajam," his words on this matter are also cited, addressing Shapur binni Shapur through an ambassador: "A man was sent to Shapur and made an invasion, so that I am old, I don't trust my life anymore, and my son is young." One man, my dear, has your trust, and let him reign in Rome. If my son grows up, he will hand over the property to him." According to Navoi, in response to this, Shapur bin Shapur sent a man named Shervin to Rum to take care of him on his behalf. Sherwin ruled Rum after his stubborn death until his son grew up. When Caesar's son grew up, he entrusted the power to him.

Here, there are a couple of aspects of the issue that need to be clarified in the future. Shopur III was proclaimed regent to Arkady, son of the Emperor Theodosius. But Chopur III himself could not carry out this guardianship, because, according to sources, he



died in 378, a year after the aforementioned agreement was concluded, long before Theodosius (He died in 395). As we have seen above, Navoi Shopur writes that he entrusted this work to Shervin and that Shervin ruled the Roman government until the son of Theodosius reached adulthood. However, there is no information about this in the sources of Roman history.

In the parts of "Tarihi Muluki Ajam" dedicated to rulers such as Hurmuz binni Anushirvan, Bahrami Chobina, Khusrv Parviz binni Hurmuz, Alisher Navoi, while describing historical events and information about the aforementioned individuals, in many places mentions the ruler of Rum at that time. The author, remaining true to his custom, does not mention the name of the Emperor, but simply refers to him as "the Roman Caesar" and "the stubborn one." Comparison of the events and information in these parts, the records of the stubborn one, with information from historical sources and research shows that the word here refers to the Emperor Mauritius.

Mauritius ruled the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) from 582 to 602.[5] Throughout his career, Mauritius not only sought to strengthen the empire, save it from decline, but also sought to strengthen it, exert influence on neighboring states, including the Sasanian Empire, sometimes making campaigns against them. He was a contemporary of the aforementioned Khurmuz binni Anushervan,

Bahrami Chobina, Khusrau Parviz, and was involved in the political events that took place in Ajam during their reign. Mavriki made a peace with the Turkic Khaganate in 589 and established allied relations. In 595, Khusrau Parviz, who had fled to him due to the rebellion of Bahrami Chobina, was well received and provided him with military assistance. With his help, Khosrow won a victory over Chobina. Mauritius was assassinated in 602 by Foka, who rebelled against him.

Most of the events described are also reflected in "Tarihi muluki Ajam." According to Navoi, at the end of the reign of Khurmuz (Khusrau Parvez's father, who was ruler in 579-590), the nobles of Ajam were displeased with his policy and turned away from him. As a result, the government of Hurmuz was weakened. Taking advantage of this, neighboring rulers began to attack Ajam. Among them, Navoi mentions the Rum stubborn. Hurmuz was able to prevent the war by giving gifts and gifts to the stubborn (that is, to Mauritius). The nobles overthrew Hurmuz and proclaimed Khusrau the ruler. But Bakhrom Chobina opposed him. Khusrau, knowing that he would not be able to fight Chobina, went to the Rum emperor and asked him for help. According to Navoi, the idea of going to Rum and getting help from Qays came from his father, Hormuz. Khusrau asked him for advice: "Parviz kurdikim, Bahrom ila muqobala qilur toqati yuktur. Hurmuzdin wished him good fortune. Hurmuz finished, so that he and the treasurer would send his



sons and daughters to the enclosed fortresses and go to Rum and ask for help from the rulers! As if to say Parviz ul... He took refuge in the stubborn."

The words written by Navoi about how the stubborn Khusrau treated him when he went to Rum coincide with the information given above about Mavriki, that is, Navoi also welcomed the stubborn Khusrau, gave him military assistance, and with his help Khusrau Bahrami fought against Chobina and won. He also mentions that the ruler gave his daughter, Maryam, in marriage to Khusrau and thus became Khusrau's son-in-law to the ruler: "Chun Parviz got married to Rum, the ruler, knowing his perfect condition, took good care of him and married his daughter, Maryam, and handed him his hand to help him. Bakhrom came upon him, and Bakhrom ran away to the khan. Parviz sat on the throne of Madain and put many countries under his control."

In Navoi's epic "Farhad and Shirin," there is an image of Maryam, Khusrau's wife. The prototype of this image is the daughter of the Emperor Mauritius, Maryam, and the prototype of the image of Sheruya in this epic is Khusrau's son Sheruya, who was born to Maryam, a grandson of Mauritius.

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