

Political Structure and Administrative System of Poshtkooh (Ilam) In the period of ValianEbrahim Yaghobi¹, Sivash Yari²¹Permanent Member of Iran Historic Society, Author and Researcher, Ilam University Instructor, Education Organization²Faculty member Ilam University, Ilam, Iran
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Abstract: Hassan Khan was appointed as governor of Lorestan from 1215 to 1255 AH according to Valian historical writings in Takht Khan remained from Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar Era. Hassan Khan ruled Poshtkooh area until age 90. After death of Agha Mohammad Khan, his successor Fath Ali Shah undertook to limit the influence of local and border area governors and rulers in order to strengthen his own reign and achieve his designated objectives. He appointed Qajar governors to those areas he considered problematic for his rule in an attempt to bring Iran in complete control of Qajar rule. He appointed his able son, Mohammad Ali Mirza Dolatshah, to governorship of Kordestan and Kermanshah. Lorestan was divided into two areas called Pishkooh and Poshtkooh. Poshtkooh was a border area and subject to continuous disputes between Iran and Ottoman. Dispute arose between Hassan Khan and his sons, Ali Khan, Ahmad Khan, and Heidar Khan at the end of Hassan Khan's life. The result of this dispute was the division of Poshtkooh into three areas between Hassan Khan's three sons. Mohammad Ali Mirza Dolatshah took advantage of the family dispute to weaken Hassan Khan Vali. He managed to increase its sphere of influence by interfering and supporting sons against father. It is believed that Hassan Khan Vali did not show his loyalty to Fath Ali Shah and reigned as an independent ruler. His independence forced the central government to weaken his position by conspiring and encouraging family disputes. Hassan Khan Vali was one of the servants to Shahverdi Khan, the last ruler of Atabakan of Lorestan. He died at age 90 in 1255 AH during Fath Ali Shah era. He was buried in Keshik Khaneh, in Najaf Ashraf. Vali Heidar Khan ruled Poshtkooh from 1255 to 1273 AH. His reign was supported by the central government. Hussein Gholi became Poshtkooh governor after the death of Haidar Khan. Hussein Gholi Khan earned several titles including Sarem al-Saltaneh, Sardar Ashraf, and Amir Tooman. Qajar historiographers and foreign reporters, including travelers and adventurers who had traveled to Poshtkooh during Nasser al-Din Shah Era and later, had explicitly written about Hussein Gholi Khan's bravery, heroism, and authority. He earned the title of Aboo Ghaddareh for his harsh suppression of rebellious and unruly Seqvand tribes, who had looted Dezfool, and his continued conflict with Bani Lam Arabs, who were Ottoman citizens and crossed borders in aggression. After death of Hussein Gholi Khan, his son Gholam Reza Khan became Vali. He had received Fath al-Sultan title after his father's suppression of rebellious tribes. He later took the title of Sarem al-Sultan. Gholam Reza took his money and jewelry, moved to Iraq, and settled in Bagdad during Reza Shah Pahlavi era. Gholam Reza moiled over returning to Iran in 1308. He was even granted respite. However, Gholam Reza Khan changed his mind about returning after Anvar Lorestan chiefs were hanged in Khorram Abad by Major General Agha Khan Khazaiee upon their return to Iran in spite of respite granted by Iranian authorities with a pledge not to be harmed. [Ebrahim Yaghobi, Sivash Yari. **Political Structure and Administrative System of Poshtkooh (Ilam) the period of Valian**. *Life Sci J* 2012;9(4):3011-3019] (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 442

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Introduction

The word Vali means Governor. This term was first used in Safavid Era. It was the highest ranking position for tribes who lived in the border areas in that time. There were at most 4 Valis in the country. They were old khans who had inherited the governorship. These Khans ruled under Safavid Government, yet, they kept a degree of independence. The taxes collected by Valis were not reflected in the central government's budget. Nevertheless, they passed a part of their collections to the central government in the form of gifts and presents to King. In fact, they helped King with their payments (Alirezaiee, 1380, p. 28).

George Curzan had this to write about Vali governorship: "Governorship or Vali is a position which is sold in Iran similar to any other state job or position. The position is given to anyone who offers to pay the highest. The measurement ordinary used for valuation is based on the generating potential or causes of earning depletion of the area (Curzan, 1365, p. 250).

According to many studies conducted by researchers and scholars on the subject, Lorestan Valian (Poshtkooh and Pishkooh) were descendants of Rabieh Arabs who lived near Baghdad. They moved toward Iranian border as the result of tribal conflicts and infightings. One of them by the name of Zahir

emigrated from Iraq into Lorestan. His bravery and abilities earned him fame and Mohammadi, Ataback of Lorestan, took a special liking of him.

After Zahir's death, his son by the name of Mansour became close to Governor and married Shahverdi Khan's aunt. A son was born from this marriage named Hussein Khan. He was recognized because of his ingenuity and cleverness. Hussein Khan took over governorship after Shahverdi Khan's murder. He later founded Valian of Lorestan (Saki, no date, pp. 288-289).

Poshtkooh of Lorestan is an area with many rivers. Three forth of Poshtkooh rivers pour into huge Seimareh River, which enters into sea. People who lived in Poshtkooh never left their settlement area. They lived so far away from Tehran that certain areas of Lorestan did not use currency for their trade. They used barter similar to their ancestors. They engaged in animal husbandry for living. The average life span for male and female was one hundred years. There were some men and women who had hundred fifty years of age. Poshtkooh area was so difficult to pass that no conqueror from East or West had ever passed through the area. Many Lor tribes lived in Poshtkooh. Each tribe had one chief. The tribe chiefs followed one who was considered as the alderman (Afshar Sistani, 1366, p. 721).

Hassan Khan or Mohammad Hassan Khan was son of Ismail Khan. Valian of Poshtkooh ruled in Khorram Abad until the time of Ismail Khan. They used Falakol Aflak Fort as their center. Vali Mohammad Hassan Khan moved his administration from Khorram Abad to Poshtkooh by the order of central government when border conflicts broke up between Iran and Ottoman. Poshtkooh was closer to the border line and Hassan Khan was charged to stop Ottoman's continued intrusions and interferences. Poshtkooh Valian reigned in Lorestan and Poshtkooh for 334 years from Hassan Khan to Gholam Reza Khan (Bamdad, 1378, p. 88).

Hassan Khan, Haidar Khan, Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghadareh, and Gholam Reza Khan became Poshtkooh Valies one after the other. They did not rule Lorestan but their influence on Lorestan remained strong till the early Pahlavi Era when the last Vali fled to Iraq. Their influence was through maintaining relationship with Lorestan tribes and use of the winter pastures they utilized in Poshtkooh areas neighboring Lorestan like Biravand.

Line of Ancestry Based on Pedigree

Valian family possessed a pedigree which is subject of debate because of its content and author. The name of Mohammad Jafar ibn Mohammad Ali Nasabeh appears At the bottom of pedigree. He was a genealogist of Qajar Era. The preparation date of this pedigree was written on the bottom as 1245 AH. It

was during Hassan Khan reign who was Vali at the time till 1255 AH. Hussein Khan had ruled Poshtkooh for 30 years when pedigree was prepared. Mohammad Jafar Nasabeh noted on the pedigree that the original one was in the verge of destruction when he wrote the new one (Chaman Ara, 1383, p. 32).

Mohammad Jafar Nasabeh traced Hassan Khan's ancestors to Hazrat Abolfazl al Abass, son of Hazrat Ali ibn Abitaleb, after going back 23 generations. He further traced back the pedigree from Om al Banin, Hazrat Abolfazl's mother, to Ghasi ibn Kallab.

Let's assume that the ancestry of Hassan Khan up to the last Vali were to go back after 26 generations to Hazrat Abolfazl al Abass. If the time between birth, getting married, and having the first child to be 30 years per generation, then, 26 generations times 30 years become 720 years. If the final year of the last Vali was 1340 AH and we deduct 720 years from it, we get back to 620 AH. That was around the period when Moguls conquered Iran. Hazrat Abolfazl al Abass was murdered in Karbala in 61 AH. The deference between the year of his murder and 620 AH is 550 years. If pedigree were to go back as far as Hazrat Abolfazl al Abass, we would need another 18 generations.

In Agha Mohammad Khan period, Lorestan included Poshtkooh and Pishkooh. Presently, Poshtkooh is in Lorestan and Pishkooh is in Ilam (Khoda Bakhshi, 1384, p. 26). Kabirkooch divides the area into two parts, namely, Poshtkooh and Pishkooh. The West and South parts are Poshtkooh, while the Eastern part which includes parts of West Lorestan is known as Pishkooh. The hilly parts of the latter overlooks Bein al-Nahrain plain field. In Historical Geography of Cities, it was mentioned that Kabirkooch divided Little Lor or present Lorestan into two areas called Poshtkooh and Pishkooh (Mahmoodian, 1377, p. 9).

Valian family ruled the whole area of Little Lorestan from 1596 AD/976 to 1796 AD/1175. Agha Mohammad Khan who was the founder of Qajar decided in 1796 AD to separate Poshtkooh from Lorestan in an attempt to weaken Valis' power and reduce their sphere of influence on the area (Mortenes, 1377, p. 70).

Lorestan Valis ruled the area for a long time including Poshtkooh and Pishkooh. Fath Ali Shah Qajar divided Lorestan into two area, namely Poshtkooh (Ilam) and Pishkooh (Lorestan) during Hassan Khan's reign (Mohammad Khan's son). Consequently, Valis' area of power became limited to Poshtkooh. Valian chose Khorram Abad as their capital and still spread their influence into Ilam Province. The center of Poshtkooh Valian was later moved to "Deh Bala" or "Divala" (Alirezaiee, 1380, p. 31). Valian moved out of Khorram Abad and settled

with part of their tribes in Poshtkooh in 1796 AD/1175 (Mortens, 1377, p. 70).

Valian power was weakened when Hassan Khan Vali was forced to move his administration to Poshtkooh by the order of Qajar King. This move engaged him with Poshtkooh tribal chiefs and started flame of conflicts with them.

Ismaeel Khan Vali, who was forefather of Hassan Khan Vali, had three sons by the names of Asad Khan, Mohammad Khan, and Kalbali Khan. Ismaeel Khan suffered from physical and sight weaknesses due to old age at the end of his life, therefore, could not personally attend to his government. Poshtkooh administrator started cruelty and abuse to the extent that Poshtkooh tribal chiefs decided to intervene and stop his further aggression. Their intervention ended with his elimination and murder (Saki, No date, p. 321).

Poshtkooh Valian

1- Vali Hassan Khan (1215 AH to 1255 AH)

Hassan Khan took over after Mohammad Khan passed away and Ismaeel Khan retreated into solitude. Ismaeel Khan had recommended to Hassan Khan to take revenge for Mohammad Khan's murder. Hassan Khan ruled Lorestan and Poshtkooh for several years. His revenge of Lorestan tribal chiefs made him a detested ruler. He was forced to move from Khoram Abbad to Deh Bala, present Ilam, by the order of Qajar government. Thus, his ruling became confined to that area. Hassan Khan's movement took place in 1216 AH. Earlier, he had undertaken to murder Lorestan tribal chiefs in revenge of Mohammad Khan's murder. Saki has this to write about the incident: Hassan Khan took over the administration as Assad Khan's successor by approval from Qajar king.

Tribal chiefs who were involved in Mohammad Khan's murder felt repentant for their act. They sent Abdol Hussein Khan to Vali for mediation. He was the forefather of the present Karam Ali family. He was an eloquent speaker and was charged to ask Hassan Khan to accept tribal chief for an opportunity to offer their apology in person. Hassan Khan accepted to meet them and offered them respite. However, had them beheaded when they arrived (Saki, No date, p. 321).

Hassan Khan went to Lorestan in the same year to help governors of Broojerd and Seilakhor to stop Hussein Gholi Khan, the rebellious brother of Fath Ali Shah, from escaping to Ottoman. After capture of Hussein Gholi Khan, Hassan Khan murdered certain Lorestan chiefs, especially Biranvand tribal chiefs, for supporting Hussein Gholi Khan. His act was intended to take revenge and created an increased hatred among Lorestan people toward him.

Earlier, he had captured Mohammad Khan Zand who had recruited fighters in Lorestan for a while. He

blinded Mohammad Khan Zand after capture and sent back to Fath Ali Shah. He fought along with Mohammad Ali Mirza Dolatshah in a conflict with Ottoman. He participated in capturing Soleimanieh.

Ilam elders tell stories about mass murder of Poshtkooh tribal chiefs. These stories remain unconfirmed. Hassan Khan never trusted Lorestan and Poshtkooh tribes. He always undertook to destroy or frustrate them (Rad, 1374, p. 377).

Agha Mohammad Khan maintained a friendly relationship with Lorestan Vali at the beginning of Qajar Dynasty. Agha Mohammad Khan never adopted a plan to topple Valian reign. However, Fath Ali Shah adopted an overall policy to install Qajar governors throughout the county. This policy was intended to reduce the power exercised by local governors and prevent their rebellion (Rahimi, 1383, p. 11).

The outcome of Fath Ali Shah policy was evident in many areas of Iran. One instance was the limitation imposed on Valian authority to restrict them to Poshtkooh area. Fath Ali Shah appointed his brave son, Mohammad Ali Mirza Dolatshah, to governorship of Western areas of Country. Mohammad Ali Mirza managed to mend the sour relationship that existed between Hassan Khan, Poostkooh Vali, and his father, Fath Ali Shah.

Valis always supported the central government especially during military campaigns conducted by Mohammad Ali Dulatshah against Ottomans. Hassan Khan Vali grow dissatisfied when Fath Ali Shah reduced his territory and made him move to Poshtkooh.

When Mohammad Ali Dolatshah fell ill, Vali Hassan Khan became uneasy and feared for his life on threats from Fath Ali Shah. That was the reason Mohammad Ali Dolatshah permitted Hassan Khan to return to Poshtkooh before his death. (Etemad al Saltaneh, 1364, p. 1549).

After Hassan Khan Vali passed away, Fath Ali Shah tried to incite dispute between his sons to make area seem unsafe so that he could intervene more often on the pretext to secure the area by forces of the central government. Fath Ali Shah's policy limited Valian's grip on power. His policy continued till the time Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghadareh came to power. This was the time the relation between Shah and Vali improved.

Vafa Zel al-Sultan attracted attention and favor from Shah for his invaluable contributions in suppressing rebellious tribes and nomads (Zel al-Sultan, 1362, p. 182). As old folks recalled, he managed to disperse or destroy old and original tribes in Poshtkooh such as Rizeh Vandi and Soreh Miree. The remains of Rizeh Vandi tribe was dispersed in

three provinces or mixed with other tribes (Saraiee, 1379, p. 67).

The search for documents about this period (Hassan Khan era) led to the writings from Poet of Foggy Pinnacles, which is interesting to mention here: "In speaking to the old members of Deh Bala tribe it was discovered that Zangeneh tribe sold North East mountain areas of Ilam to Deh Bala tribe. The name of Gholam Reza Arkavazi and other tribal chiefs were mentioned as witness to this sale. The date on the title indicates that it is a copy of an original document, which puts the authenticity of the document in doubt. The year of the date appears to be 11106. It could be either 1116 or 1106. The favorable statement issued by Hassan Khan to Gholam Reza Arkavazi was dated 1219. Therefore, the date could be either 1206 or 1216. Given the fact that Hassan Khan entered Poshtkooh in 1216, the latter date seems more appropriate. This gives rise to another possibility. Zangeneh Tribes may have sold their pastures and left Poshtkooh for Kermanshah at the time Hassan Khan arrived in the area.

Hassan Khan brought many individuals to Poshtkooh as clerk, writer, judge, apprentice, servants, and retainers. Other tribes also moved from Lorestan and settled in Poshtkooh. Successors of these individuals still live in Ilam and have adapted to the new cultural setting.

Hassan Khan administration had terrible jails. Strict and rough officials made life difficult for people. It did not seem that he had attempted to provide wellbeing and progress to Poshtkooh area (Saraiee, 1379, p. 67).

Rowlinson wrote about Hassan Khan and his reign: "Poshtkooh is still ruled by Vali. Hassan Khan Vali made a superficial agreement with the central government after Mohammad Ali Mirza Dolatshah passed away in order to strengthen his power (Aman al-Lahi, 1362, p. 52).

A minor dispute accrued between Hassan Khan and his elder sons before I met them. Tribes had taken sides with one of them. Kermanshah government took advantage of situation and started to intervene by backing up the two sons against the father. This intervention had helped the local government to gain minor influence in the area. Hassan Khan was dismissed and his sons, Ali Khan, Heidar Khan, and Ahmad Khan were collectively selected as Valis for the area.

Tribes found out that they were venerable when conflicts aroused among rulers and influence of central government increased. Therefore, they mediated peace between father and sons. Hassan Khan now rules Poshtkooh like a powerful, capable, and independent prince (Saraiee, 1379, p. 68)".

2- Heidar Khan Vali (1255 AH to 1273 AH)

After Hassan Khan's death, his sons, Ali Khan, Heidar Khan, and Ahmad Khan divided Poshtkooh between themselves (Afshar Sistani, 1372, p. 156). Qajar government recognized Heidar Khan as Vali of Poshtkooh. In Takht Khan engraving, Heidar Khan and his brothers are not honored. Their names did not even appear in the pedigree discussed earlier (Karimi, 1372, p. 70).

After Heidar Khan passed away in 1273 AH, his son Hussein Gholi Khan was appointed as Poshtkooh governor by Nasser al Din Shah. He was an outstanding Vali. According to the records of traveling journalists, Hussein Gholi Khan was cruel, blood thirsty, fastidious, and persnickety. He suppressed rebellious Arab tribes living in Khoozestan together with Lorestan unruly tribes. He stopped border intrusions by Ottoman. Central government raised his position to Amir Tooman or General. He also earned titles such as Sarem al-Saltaneh, Sardar Ashraf, and Aboo Ghaddareh. The latter title remained in Vali family. It is still a family name of some of their successors (Afshar Sistani, 1372, p. 157).

Hussein Gholi Khan changed the name of the seat of his government from "Deh Bala" to "Hussein Abad" or "Husseinieh". He built a cubic fort there and formed an army of 700 cavalry and 2000 infantry. The number could increase to thousands when necessary (Ibid, 1372, p. 157).

Hussein Gholi Khan tribe was not nomad like other Valis' tribes. His entourage was so large to fill a city. They moved wherever Khan moved to. DeMorgan, Lord Curzan, and Haj Sayyah Mahallati, all met him. They wrote about him and readers who are interested in their description can refer to their books.

3- Hussein Gholi Khan (1273 AH to 1318 AH)

Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh was son of Heidar Khan and grandson of Hassan Khan. He carried titles such as Sarem al-Saltaneh and Sardar Ashraf as Poshtkooh Vali. Poshtkooh valians were successors of Hussein Khan, the first Lorestan Vali. Hussein Khan was a servant of Shahverdi Khan, the last member of Atabakan of Lorestan. Shahverdi Khan rebelled against Great Shah Abbas. He escaped to Jangaleh, which was the winter settlement of Poshtkooh Vali. Shah Abbas army followed him to Jangaleh. Shahverdi Khan was killed in Jangaleh after a tough and bloody battle (Bamdad, 1378, p. 83).

Rabino wrote about Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh in his book: "Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh built a castle in his summer location in Deh Bala, which was located in a valley. That building was called Kakh. It was a summer living place and a fortress. In addition, he built a great plantation outside the fort."

Hussein Gholi Khan stayed in Dumb Gholamon during winter. The name of the place was later changed to Husseineh. Aboo Ghaddareh constructed a building along Ganjan Chum River similar to the one in Deh Bala. He also built a plantation next to it. He had 2000 armed men under his command. These armed men were called "Amaleh" and they were fully equipped and armed.

Dair Kavand tribe rebelled in 1865 AD and started intruding their neighboring areas. Hussein Gholi Khan undertook to suppress the rebellion by his armed men. After his victory, his son earned Fath al-Sultan title. Aboo Ghaddareh died in 1317 AH. His son Gholam Reza Khan Sarem al-Saltaneh took over his father's reign. He earned Sardar Ashraf title later (Bamdad, 1378, pp. 88, 89).

Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh constructed buildings, plantations, and a bath house in his seat of government, Hussein Abad (presently Ilam). There is no trace of these buildings now, but the ruins of the fortress along Kanjancham River, where he stayed during winter, are still visible. He died at age 68 in 1318 AH. His resting place is in Vadi al-Salam in Najaf Ashraf (Saraiee, 1379, p. 72).



Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh, Poshtkooh Vali, 1273 AH to 1318 AH

Source: Ilam and its history

"Hussein Gholi Khan and Nasser al Din Shah"

Zel al-Sultan used Hussein Gholi Khan several times to restore order in his territory. Hussein Gholi Khan earned the attention and favor of the powerful Qajar Prince because of his bravery and heroism. Zel al-Sultan invited Hussein Gholi Khan to wedding ceremony of his son, Jalal al-Doleh. Hussein Gholi Khan met Nasser al Din Shah in this trip and received recognition for his contributions. Nasser al Din Shah also granted Sarem al-Saltaneh and Fath al-Sultan to Gholam Reza Khan, Hussein Gholi Khan's elder son.

Hussein Gholi Khan's seat of government was in Deh Bala. He changed its name to Hussein Abad later. He ordered several tribes and nomads to permanently settle in Hussein Abad in order to help the place flourish. He built new mosques, shops, and dwellings, plus a castle for himself there.

Mozaffareddin Shah, who took over after Nasser al Din Shah passed away, confirmed the governorship of Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh. He strongly reigned over Poshtkooh till his death in 1318 AH.

Gholam Reza Khan was the last Vali of Poshtkooh. He was son of Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh and lived during Mozaffareddin Shah and Mohammad Ali Shah periods. His governor capital was in Hussein Abad (presently Ilam). He was the Commander of armed forces and Deputy Governor during his father's reign (Sayyah, 1359, p. 226).

Hussein Gholi Khan carried titles such as Sarem al-Saltaneh, Sardar Ashraf, and Vali Poshtkooh. He was son of Heidar Khan and grandson of Hassan Khan. He took over after his father's death in 1273 AH when of Nasser al Din Shah was Qajar King. He tried to unite Poshtkooh as soon as he became Vali. Hussein Gholi Khan used any means to implement his plan and never stop pursuing his objectives.

Hussein Gholi Khan eliminated his cousins for different reasons. He deported Abbas Gholi Khan to Tehran and Ali Gholi Khan to Zarrin Abad. He entered into a conflict with Ottoman in Baghsai (Bagh Shahi) area, which was in Iraq. Hussein Gholi Khan attached Bagh Shahi to his territory as a part of Poshtkooh.

Hussein Gholi Khan was one of the Valis whose reputation went beyond Iranian borders. He was well known more than any other Valis. One reason for his fame was the fighting he carried out with Ottoman army. Another reason was the fact that many writers and travelers who visited Iran started writing about Iran history. They would visit Hussein Gholi Khan's territory as one of the strongest in the country (Alirezaiee, 1378, p. 33).

"Hussein Gholi Khan was one of well-known higher ranking officials in Iran. He went to Tehran once along with Zel al-Sultan (in fact by order of Nasser al Din Shah) to see King's accoutrement. This

visit was arranged on Etemad al-Saltaneh's initiative as a warning to Hussein Gholi Khan to prevent him from thinking about rebellion. Qajar government honored Hussein Gholi Khan the same way they recognized other rulers (Ali Rezaee, 1378, p. 33).

Lord Curzan, the famed British traveller wrote about Hussein Gholi Khan after he met him. He wrote: Poshtkooh Vali is a brutal and cruel ruler. He has not reached age 50 yet, but he looks like a decrepit old man because he walks excessively. Hussein Gholi Khan has earned Amir Tooman or major general title (Curzan, 1365, p. 337).

DeMorgan, who was a famed French traveler and archeologist, wrote: I informed Vali about my interest to see him. It was Ramadan. Vali used to sleep all day and wake up just before sunset. I met him around five o'clock. He was with his two sons, ages 9 and 10 years. He had a cruel look on his face. He had long and dark beard like his hair. He did seem trusting and perhaps feared us. He might have thought that we came to study the area for reporting to Iran government. In spite of his fear and cold reception, he did not block our visit. He sent his men to accompany us (Saki, no date, pp. 313-314).

Historiographer Afzal al Molk wrote about Qajar Era: "Sarem al-Saltaneh (Hussein Gholi Khan) was the brave man of the time and the powerful ruler of Lorestan (Ilam). He had lots of retinue and had Lorestan under his command. Although he was endowed with lots of talents, he was always a devotee and prepared to sacrifice for his government. If Broojerd and Lorestan Valis did not put too much demand on him, he would easily pay taxes to the government (Ettehad, 1361, p. 99).

The reason for Aboo Ghaddareh title

Hussein Gholi Khan had many titles including Sarem al-Saltaneh, Sardar Ashraf, Vali, Aboo Ghaddareh (dagger holder), and Amir Tooman. Razm Ara explained the reason for calling him Aboo Ghaddareh: "Some Poshtkooh Valian had made outstanding and considerable services. Iran lacked local army in Poshtkooh area. The dedication and diligence of such valian secured the Iranian borders and returned any act of aggression by harsh reprisal.

Hussein Gholi Khan was a very brave Vali who personally took command of his riflemen and local people. He repeatedly drove back Arab tribes who were always ready for intrusion Iran for looting. Hussein Gholi Khan forced them back to Dejléh Shore after leaving lots of casualties and booty. For this reason, Hussein Gholi Khan was called Aboo Ghaddareh. This title became a family name of Valian and their families till their reign ended. It was a family name that gave them honor and respect (Razm Ara, 1320, p. 107)".

Ancestors of Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh were from Bani Rabieh Arabs. Yet, he was proud of Iran and being an Iranian. He loved Iran more than anyone else. His heroism and patriotism made him a brave border guardsman and governor with no contender. He made a high contribution toward maintaining Iran's independence and territorial integrity. He defended Iran against Ottoman and Arab aggressions with all his abilities. No part of Iran was lost to enemies during their reign. They were suspicious of foreign travelers and never trusted them. DeMorgan pointed out the harsh treatment exercised by the powerful Poshtkooh Vali (Ali Rezaee, 1378, p. 35).

Hussein Gholi Khan's reputation was extended so far for his name to become a proverb. Alameh Dehkhoda wrote about the subject: "Hussein Gholi Khan or becoming Hussein Gholi Khan is attributed to Hussein Gholi Khan Vali. It refers to anarchy, havoc, and looting. It was believed that affairs were presumptive during Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh and created such reputation for him (Dehkhoda, 1371, p. 7963).

The late Mohammad Mohit Tabatabaee did not attribute the proverb to Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh. He wrote that his relationship with the central government hardly ever crossed Poshtkooh borders of Lorestan to reach Tehran, Mashhad, and Kerman. However, it is possible to attribute the proverb to Hussein Gholi Khan if we consider the extended infighting in different areas of Poshtkooh during Hussein Gholi Khan Era, his success in suppressing domestic rebellion such as the ones by Sigvand tribes and his cousins, deportation of many relatives to other areas of Poshtkooh and Iran, plus his engagements in many conflicts against Arabs and Ottoman.

DeMorgan wrote about Hussein Gholi Khan, the powerful Vali Poshtkooh: "Poshtkooh has maintained its freedom and independence thanks to its independent ruler, Vali Hussein Gholi Khan. He has complete control of many passageways and canyons in the area to block possible intrusions by Ottoman, Iranians, and any suspicious traveler. Poshtkooh is a part of Shah's territorial empire but he acts freely and never pays any taxes or duties".

This does not mean that Hussein Gholi Khan did not follow Tehran. On the contrary, he maintained courteous relations with Tehran governments. He was careful from afar that no government agent could enter his territory. Messengers who brought orders or letters for Vali might risk their lives when entering Poshtkooh. However, messengers were treated well once entered.

If we were to look back into history, we would realize that Poshtkooh always remained as the most

powerful governorship among its neighboring areas during many kingships that ruled Iran. DeMorgan considered Poshtkooh Valies as one of the eight ruling families who had divided Iran (DeMorgan, 1339, v. 2, p. 238). In summary, Hussein Gholi Khan was a junior kingpin and an absolute ruler of his mountainous area who was fully respected by Iranians (Alirezaee, 1378, p. 37).

Gholam Reza Khan Vali (1318 AH to 1340 AH)

Next Poshtkooh Vali, Gholam Reza Khan, had earned titles such as Fath al-Sultan, Sarem al-Saltaneh and Sardar Ashraf. He was the elder son of Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghaddareh and a decedent of Hussein Kahn Salvizi who was appointed as Lorestan Vali by Shah Abbas Safavi after Shahverdi Khan was murdered.

Dikevand Tribes rebelled in 1281 AH and started attacking their neighboring areas. Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghadareh, Gholam Reza Khan's father, who also carried Sarem al-Saltaneh and Sardar Ashraf, undertook to suppress them with his armed forces and cavalry, called Amaleh, on the order of the central government. Gholam Reza Khan earned Fath al-Sultan title when his father conquered the rebellious tribes. When Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghadareh passed away in 1317 AH, Gholam Reza Khan Fath al-Sultan took over and earned Sarem al-Saltaneh title. He later earned Sardar Ashraf and his son, Amanollah Khan, took Sarem al-Salteneh title (Khani, 1373, p. 69).

Like most of local governors in Iran, Gholam Reza Khan was unaware of political situation in the country and did not know about motivations for friendly or aggressive relations. When Salar al-Doleh rebelled against central government for political or other reasons, Gholam Reza Khan supported him because of the family relation. Gholam Reza Khan's son, Aman Allah, became one of Salar al-Doleh commanders. Aman Allah return to Poshtkooh after Salar al-Doleh was defeated (Bamdad, 1378, V. 5, p. 170).

After this defeat, Gholam Reza Khan, who had observed Constitutionalists' victory, decided to side with them superficially. When Sardar Sepah, Iran's Prime Minister, took power (1304 - 1320), Gholam Reza Khan together with Solat al-Doleh Ghashghaiee and Sheikh Khaz'al, the sole governor of Khozestan, made a tripartite partnership by the name of "Anjoman Sa'adeh" in defense of Constitutionalists.

From the beginning of First World War one (1914-1918), Gholam Reza Khan favored Germans following the democratic government of Mostofi al-Mamalek. He presented problems to Allied Forces (British, Russia, and France) in Koot al-Emareh. His relation with Allied countries improved later after

Major General Amir Ahmadi intermediated (Sepehr, 1325, p. 334). Gholam Reza Khan was the last Poshtkooh Vali who was defeated by Reza Shah Forces in 1307. He took refuge in Iraq and died there.

Valian ruled the area as local Khans. They armed local people, defended Iranian borders in Ilam, collected taxes from local people, and abused people through forced labor. They built summer and winter forts in Mehran and Illam areas. The remains of those forts still stand in the center of towns. The famous Ghal'eh Vali is located in Ilam and is protected as a historical site. Ghal'eh Vali presently hosts cultural activities (Khani, 1373, pp. 69, 70).

Gholam Reza Khan ordered installation of a relatively huge stone engraving with dimensions of one by two meters. This stone engraving is placed in Takht Khan (Takht Khatoon) which is located about twenty kilometers on the road from Ilam to Saleh Abad. This place had a nice climate and was a resting area for Poshtkooh Valis. This stone engraving contains a brief history of Valis and their contributions.

Gholam Reza Khan Vali and Reza Khan

Reza Shah decided in 1300 to strengthen his grip on power by suppression and forced settlement of tribes. He was especially keen about annihilation and disarming the Lorestan tribes. A conflict of interest between Poshtkooh Vali and Reza Khan was inevitable. Reza Khan was looking for a pretext to secure his power on Poshtkooh as a strategic location. He aimed at bringing down Gholam Reza Khan from power and ending his reign as Vali.

Reza Khan wrote in his travelling diaries: "An important point that took my attention was the position of Poshtkooh Vali. He stood steadfast on the way and behind Sheik Khazal with heavily armed forces. It was impossible to siege Khozestan without threatening or suppressing him. There is no option other than threatening him from behind in order to prevent him from sending out his forces in support of Arabs. I chose the longest route in spite of its difficulties by equipping state forces stationed in the northwest region (Azerbaijan) and dispatching them toward southwest of country (Alirezaee, 1378, p. 45). Ghzagh forces of Reza Khan conquered Khozestan in 1303. Reza Khan decided to remove Vali from power as his next move.

Gholam Reza Khan lived in fear of engaging in a conflict with Reza Khan forces. He even refused to go to Imperial Court when he received an invitation from the central government. All evidences made him see the dark side of himself and his family. He could see the end of his power and ruling. The time had come for an end to his family's stronghold in Poshtkooh.

When state troops reached Poshtkooh, he took his money, jewelry, and all the moveable assets he had collected by exploiting impoverished people of Poshtkooh and escaped to Iraq to settle in Baghdad in 1307. Poshtkooh finally came under central government control during the last part of Reza Khan rule. The long reign of Poshtkooh Valian finally ended by Major General Mohammad Sadegh Kopal with a decree from Reza Khan. This also marked the end of Valigari in Iran (Alirezaee, 1378, p. 47).

Gholam Reza Khan decided to return to Iran and asked for a respite from Reza Shah in 1308. Reza Shah accepted Yad Allah Khan's request and Prime Minister Hedayat (Mokhber al-Saltaneh) sent him Shah's written and stamped statement with a Quran as the proof of respite inviting father and son to return to Iran. However, Gholam Reza Khan changed his mind after hearing that Alvar tribal chiefs of Lorestan were hanged by General Hussein Khan Kazaee upon return to Khoram Abbad in spite of promises not be harmed and the respite issued by the central government.

Summary

Valian Lorestan strengthened their hold on Lorestan (and Ilam) during the early parts of Qajar Dynasty. Fath Ali Shah decided to install Qajar rulers all over country to reinforce his power and avoid possible rebellion. He dispatched Qajar princesses to different parts of country. The western region of Iran was given to Fath Ali Shah's brave son, Mohammad Ali Dolatshah.

Hassan Khan, Vali Lorestan (1215 to 1255 AH), was forced to retreat from Khoram Abad to Poshtkooh (presently Ilam) under pressure from the central government. Filly Valian of Poshtkooh heeded less to the central government more than before.

Haidar Khan Vali (1255-1273 AH), one of Poshtkooh Valian, shared ruling the area with his brothers Ali Khan and Ahmad Khan. But, Haider Khan was the only one approved by the central government.

The most well known Filly Valian of Poshtkooh were Hussein Gholi Khan Aboo Ghadareh (1273-1318 AH) and his son Gholam Reza (1318-1307) who was appointed by Mozafar al Din Shah as Poshtkooh Vali. Gholam Reza Khan was forced to flee Iran in 1307 after Reza Khan (1304 to 1320) came to power and attempted to centralize the government power.

Gholam Reza Khan, the last Filly Vali of Poshtkooh, ordered the installation of a stone engraving in a place called Takht Khan, located 34 kilometers south of Ilam on the road from Ilam to Tehran. His intended purpose was to save his name and his family by leaving a record of the family history and the accomplishments his family had made.

The stone engraving is 520 centimeters high, 810 centimeters wide, and 700 centimeters deep. The stone is installed on the west wall at 250 centimeters above ground. The writing is in Kufi scripture. Letters stand out 4 centimeters from a relatively leveled and polished surrounding surface. The lines were not evenly spaced and the style of writing has given it a beautiful appearance.

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