



TALIKOTI BATTLE A REASON FOR THE FALL OF VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE: A CRITICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT :

Ramaraya before invading Vijayanagara Empire rebelled against the affiliate emperors and his enemies kingdoms. The affiliate emperors of many regions in the south of Chandragiri initiated rebellion. The Christian missionaries indulged in converting Hindus to Christian religion. Christian missionaries started destructing Hindu temples and religions places and started constructing Churches in their places.

KEYWORDS : *enemies kingdoms , Christian religion , religions places and started constructing Churches.*

INTRODUCTION :

The primary duty of Timmaraya was to avoid Christian missionaries from converting Hindus to Christians religion and to avoid destruction of temples and religious places. Timmaraya was an army chief, he defeated one after the other everyone of his enemies and took under his control most of the southern regions. Lastly, he erects a victory tower at Kanyakumari and returns back to capital. The relations with Portuguese worsened day by day. Ramaraya was over courageous and confidence. By then there were some severe mutual strives between five Muslim states. Ramaraya wanted to make use of this situation for the benefit of Vijayanagara empire. But Sultan's were unhappy with Ramaraya and had lost faith on Ramaraya. But as Ramaraya owned a huge army and was very capable, everyone inevitably surrendered to him. As a result of blow on the self-esteem there was severe distress amongst them. There was only one possible way to defeat Ramaraya, that was everyone to come together and fight against Ramaraya. Everyone came together and there was pre-preparation for the war. These Muslim army troops later assembled at the end of December 1564 at Talikoti located to the north of the banks of river Krishna near Bijapur. The Talikoti battle started at Rakkasa and Tangadi villages situated to the South of river Krishna.

CAUSES FOR TALIKOTI BATTLE:

Causes for Talikoti battle is categorized into four categories, namely 1) Religious Reasons 2) differential policies of Ramaraya 3) Political Reasons and 4) The true reasons for war. Talikoti war is



considered as a black remark on the harmony amongst Hindu and Muslim communities in South India. This was also termed as an ill-famed instance. Ali-I a Muslim king of Vijayapura used to converse with Ramaraya the Vijayanagara king as "Appaji". Likewise even the queen of Ramaraya used to treat Ali-I with lot of affection and love as if he is her own son. On the death of Ramaraya's son Ali-I travel from Vijayapura and offers condolences on the death

and extends his sympathy towards Ramaraya's family. These incidences evince that there existed harmonious relationship between Vijayanagara and Vijayapura empires. But it is astonishing and unfortunate that within a few years, these families turned into absolute rivals. The intensity of their rivalry grew up to such an extent that they indulged in war. As of result of this there was a lot of distress between Hindu and Muslim communities in South India and resulted in war between these communities. However specific reason for the cause of the war cannot be estimated. When the incidences of Talikoti war is reviewed it can be assumed that following are the reasons for the Talikoti war:

POLITICAL REASONS:

Shahi Sultans utilized the cultural rivalry between Vijayanagara and Bahamani empires for their benefits. Shahi Sultans war always enthusiastic to invade and capture provinces of Vijayanagara empire. Further it took up the huge form and led to 1565 war. Ramaraya became the representative of the Province of Vijayanagara Empire. Ramaraya with his strong army battalions started to invade and capture the regions surrounding the borders of Vijayanagara empire. Later Ramaraya started invading into the regions of Kutubshahi and Adilshahi. Ibrahim Kutubh Shahi and Ali Adil could not resist this developments.

There was a threat that dignity of Hindu empire, economic resources and tremendous army would capture every regions of South India. Therefore, it was necessary to apply breaks to the invasion of Vijayanagara Empire. Ramaraya was very strong and left enormous impact in all the battles of South India and established the Vijayanagara supremacy all over south India. Ramaraya developed an arrogance character and started undermining Sultans. When Kutubshahi and his army moved from capital to partake in Southern wars, the Vijayanagara army sneaked invaded East Telangana and captured various regions of Telanagana. During the second war as Ibrahim Kutubh Shaha betrayed Vijayanagara Empire, the Hindu Army troops invaded eastern parts of Telanagana and captured various forts. Moreover, as Ramaraya sheltered enemy of Ibrahim Kutubh Shah named Devaraya in Vijayangara, Ibrahim Kutubh Shah lost his trust on Ramaraya. All these aspects resulted Ibrahim Kutubh Shah to fight against Ramaraya of Vijayanagara empire.

During second war of Ahmedabad, when Hussain Nijamshaha hoped for an agreement conditioned Sultan to come the Ramaraya's camp and receive a pan from Ramaraya. Sultan was severely insulted. Ramaraya was arrogant and started neglecting and disregarding Sultan's and ambassadors. Ramaraya did not give appointments to ambassadors for meeting and imposed strict instructions. But he met the ambassadors on his wish and will.

RELIGIOUS REASONS:

In 1558 AD on the invitation of Ali the army of Vijayanagara invaded on jurisdiction of Ahmednagar kings. At this instance Vijayanagara army started to hurt the religious faiths of the Muslims at Ahmedabad province. Further, Ferhta refers that Vijayanagara army insulted Muslim women and destructed mosques and also invaded and looted the people. Likewise when a Fakir visited a Vijayanagara palace and drank water from the water pond, Ramaraya orders sentence of death to Fakir. Thus instance outraged the anger of Ahmednagar Sultans against Ramaraya.

It can be said that after victory of Hindu army of Vijayanagara empire in Ahmedabad battles the Hindu army indulged in activities insulting Muslim religion. Further it cannot be said that Ramaraya very poorly handled the ambassadors. It is also opined that there was no chance for Hindu army to indulge in heinous activities against Muslim communities when Ali Adil Shah himself participated with Ramaraya in the Ahmednagar battle.

Vijayanagara empire was never against Islam religion. There are many instances wherein Vijayanagara Empire had provided Muslim to observe various religious rights. Kings Immadi Krishnadevaraya and Ramaraya of Vijayanagara Empire had facilitated for the construction of Mosques in their province. Muslims were involved in administration tasks. During the reign of Vijayanagara empire, some of the Muslim community people were appointed as chief of the army and higher authorities in provincial administration. Ramaraya treated Ali Adil Shah as his son. Ibrahim Kutubh Shah came to Vijayanagara empire seeking shelter

after he failed to succeed in Yadava combat. Ramaraya sheltered Ibrahim Kutubh Shah for over seven years in the capital. Ramaraya had harmonious relationship with Shahi Sultan of South.

As Ramaraya intervened in the foreign policies of the Sultan administration everyone started blaming Ramaraya. But it was not right, Ramaraya was not expecting for war. Ramaraya did not encourage or provoke war. Ramaraya followed inter-state policies as per Kautilya's political policies. Sultans intervened in the inter-state disputes. Sultan's of South were not happy about the status, popularity of Ramaraya of Vijayanagara empire and Sultans were not also with the Hindu dynasty. The existence of Hindu dynasty was hard for Sultan's to digest.

RAMARAYA'S DISPARITY POLICIES:

Ramaraya directly intervened in the internal political disputes of Sultan's of South and very cleverly framed the foreign policies and this provoked Sultans to develop hatred against each other. There was mutual conflicts amongst the Sultans, they used to run to Ramaraya seeking help. Sultans lost their time and power and in the intermediation Ramaraya, the Sultan dynasty experienced the impact of Vijayanagara empire. Ramaraya was not responsive and he was always careless about the Sultans. Ramaraya started to misuse the ambassadors of Sultans. Ramaraya did not follow the culture and timely duties of the dynasty. Every time when the ambassadors of Sultan visited Vijayanagara for a important work, Ramaraya did not allow them to meet him and was very neglectful to interact with the ambassadors. Instead he used to meet the ambassadors when he finds it necessary.

Due to these developments the existence of Islamic dynasties in the South was threatened. Sultans came to mutual understanding amongst themselves and together they decided to uproot the unrestrained powers of Ramaraya of Vijayanagara.

In 1562 after the completion of Ahmedabad II battle when the army of Sultans were returning to capital, Ramaraya attacked Sultan dynasty and captured Yadagiri and Bagalkot of Vijayapura state. This outraged Ali Adilshah. Ali Adilshah witnessed the heinous activities of Ramaraya towards the Muslim communities. As Ramaraya was very powerful Ali Adilshah was in helpless and hopeless position. None of the Sultan dynasty was powerful to counterattack Ramaraya. Ramaraya framed a foreign policies in such a way that none of the five Islamic dynasties should unite and attack Vijayanagara empire. Thus Ramaraya retained the status of Vijayanagara Empire in South India.

TRUE CAUSE OF THE WAR:

Due the foreign policy of Ramaraya, Vijayanagara Empire became powerful and flourished in South India. The Islamic dynasties realized that these foreign policies would someday prove disastrous for their existence in South India. The Sultan dynasty was under severe threat from Vijayanagara empire. Later they decided to incorporate cooperative administration with other Islamic dynasties.

The Sultan kings were enthusiastic to regain the regions which were invaded by Vijayanagara empire. It is opined that the Nizam of Ahmedabad became the victim of the foreign policies of Ramaraya, he experienced severe losses. Nizam of Ahmedabad proposed for the cooperation from all the Islamic dynasties. Every Islamic dynasties agreed to Nizam's proposal. Though the cooperation was temporary all the Islamic dynasties united and common understanding was established among all the Islamic dynasties.

Apart from this Vijayanagara Empire invited the people from other dynasties to enter into Vijayanagara palace to solve their mutual problems and conflicts. This enabled the enemies to understand the weaknesses of Vijayanagara empire. Further as there were many Muslim officials in the Vijayanagara empire, they exposed and revealed all the internal affairs to the officials of Islamic dynasties. Later this resulted as fatal to the Vijayanagara empire.

CONCLUSION:

Kings of Vijayanagara Empire protected and conserved the Hindu religion, and Hindu culture from the Muslim invasion for about three centuries. The high-handedness and glory of Vijayanagara empire

fantasizes and astonishes the foreign travellers visiting India and makes them to accept the facts. The immense treasure, wealth, the palaces built by them, hundreds of temples built by them, the victories gained by them, the encouragement given by them towards education and art makes every Kannada citizen feel proud of their land. But it can be assumed that in few of the important aspects rulers of Vijayanagara Empire were not futuristic in their thoughts. 1) If at all the empire has to be long living the economic status of the feudalities and the citizens has to be improved. The rulers of Vijayanagara Empire were not successful efficiently improving the economic status. The major part of the treasury of governors or the head of the regions and the various forms of taxes accrued from the citizens were to be provided to the government. As a result of this the poor in the dynasty remained poor. The measures taken up by the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire for the uplifting the poor were inadequate and unsatisfactory. 2) As there was patriarchal hegemony there was no scope for other citizens to progress, there was lack of nationalistic views or patriotism amongst the citizens. The pacifier or the head of the provinces were very loyal and deposited the taxes collected from their province to the centre. Every pacifier or the head of the province owned an army and were completely independent in administration matters. During the rule of most powerful and eminent king Krishnadevaraya, the Vijayanagara empire did not experience any setbacks. But the loopholes were seen in later period. The feudalities or the head of the province intended to become independent these resulted in severe distress and whole of the Vijayanagara empire collapsed.

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