

Foreign Invasion and Women's Resistance

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Abstract — There have been foreign invasions in India since the beginning, to which Indian kings have put up strong resistance, but the credit for this is given only to men. Which is discrimination against women in history. Whereas women have stood shoulder to shoulder with men and taken on the foreigners. Women have always been a source of inspiration for men. For this reason they could easily face even the biggest attackers. In the presented research paper, an attempt has been made to briefly explain the resistance done by women against foreign invasions so that researchers and students can come face to face with those facts in the future, so that in the future, women get equal justice as men in history. So that they can understand that women are not just objects of enjoyment but they are the actual form of Durga and when the time comes, they have always been ready to perform each of their duties, be it at home or the battlefield.

Keywords: Invasions, Resistance, Discrimination, Shoulder, Foreigners, Attackers, Enjoyment, Duties, Battlefield

I. INTRODUCTION

The country of India is not only a witness to the bravery of the brave men but is also a stronghold of the stories of the brave women. Many forms of a woman are seen in the society. On one hand, she is a loving mother for her children and on the other hand, she is an actual Durga for the enemy. The form of Chandi is that whenever someone has cast an evil eye on the country or the family, the woman has killed him in a monstrous form. Times have changed but the duties of women have not changed. Today, in this research paper, we will talk about some ESI women. They are describing those who soured the teeth of the foreign invaders and they had to flee backwards. Like – Rani Lakshmbai, Begum Hazrat Mahal, Naika Devi, Rani Karmavati, etc. In this research paper we will study about some such brave women.

A. *Nayika Devi*

Queen Nayika Devi was born in Goa. She was the daughter of Maharaja Shivchatta Paramandi, Mahamandaleshwar of Kandaba. The princess had full interest in the art of war since childhood. And he gained proficiency in archery, fencing, horse riding etc. She was also skilled as a diplomat. She was married to Prince Ajaypal Singh Solanki of Gujarat. Prince Ajaypal was the grandson of the Chalukya dynasty Maharaj Siddharaj Jai Singh and the son of Maharaja Kumarpal Solanki. Maharaj Ajaypal Singh Solanki and Queen Naika Devi had two sons. His elder son's name was Mulraj II and younger son's name was Bhimdev II. In the year 1175, Maharaj Ajaypal Singh was killed by his own bodyguard. The tenure of Maharaj Ajaypal Singh was from the year 1171 to the year 1175.

This was a difficult time for the state of Gujarat. Many foreign invaders and enemies had their eyes on this state. Who wanted to take over the kingdom of Maharaj Ajaypal Singh after his death? Now after the king was murdered like this, the question was who would take charge

of the state. Because both her sons were still young. Everyone was aware of Queen Nayaka Devi's political acumen and diplomatic skills. Therefore, the senior ministers, feudal lords and great courtiers of the kingdom unanimously chose the queen as the ruler of the kingdom. But Queen Nayaka Devi refused to sit on the throne. The successor of the kingdom, Mulraj II Solanki, was not yet of the age and wisdom to become a ruler. Therefore, Queen Nayaka Devi became the representative of the successor Mulraj II and took over the reins of the kingdom as a guide.

Mohammad Gauri was looking to expand his foothold completely in India. He conquered Multan in the war of 1175. His eyes were on Rajputana and Gujarat. Now he was looking to capture Anhilwad Patan in Gujarat. Anhilwad Patan was the capital of the Chalukya dynasty.

When Mohammed Ghori came to know that Gujarat was ruled by a widowed queen and a small child, he was elated. He found it very easy to conquer Gujarat. But this misunderstanding of Mohammad Ghori was soon to be broken. As soon as she got the news of Mohammad Ghori's attack, Queen Nayaki Devi started preparing for war. He prepared his army. And also sought help from all the nearby kings. He did not get help from anyone except the Chahaman dynasty of Naddul, the Chahaman dynasty of Jalore and the Parmars of Arbuda.

Rani Nayaki Devi had understood that her preparation was not enough to defeat Mohammad Gauri. Therefore, he made such a war strategy which would benefit his army. He chose Gadarghatta, located at the foothills of today's Mount Abu, as the battlefield. It is situated in Kasahrada village of Sirohi district of Rajasthan. 40 miles away from Anhilwad, in the year 1178, Gadarghatta Mohammad Gauri established his military camp by pitching tents.

He sent a message to Queen Nayaki Devi through a messenger that the queen should hand over herself, her two sons as well as all the women along with their wealth to him, otherwise everyone would have to lose their lives. In response, Queen Nayaki Devi showed approval. Due to which all the ministers and feudal lords were greatly surprised. But that was the queen's ploy to defeat the robber. Rani Nayaki Devi sought refuge from King Kalhan Dev Chauhan of Nadol for the safety of all the women and girls of the state. King Kalhan Dev Chauhan helped them and gave safe place to all the women and girls in his kingdom.

According to the previous plan, Rani Nayaki Devi had instructed 200 soldiers to enter Mohammad Ghori's army in disguise. He ordered his commander Kunwar Ramveer to remain present with the soldiers at some distance from him. Some warriors hid in the foothills of Mount Abu. And according to her strategy, the queen scattered 25,000 soldiers of her army all around.

Then Queen Nayaki Devi tied her younger son on her back and rode on the horse to confront Mohammad Gauri.

Mohammad Gauri was bursting with joy considering that his victory was certain.

The queen stopped at a short distance from Mohammad Gauri. And the soldiers of Rani Nayaki Devi, hidden in Mohammad Gauri's army, were ready to attack the Turkish soldiers. Mohammad Gauri was stunned to see the horsemen, foot soldiers and soldiers riding on elephants along with Rani Nayaki Devi Solanki.

Before he could understand anything, the queen injured Mohammad Ghori with a sharp blow of her sword. Mohammed Ghauri, trembling with pain in his injured state, ran away from the battlefield. Mohammad Ghauri had to run away to save his life. After this he never looked back towards Gujarat.

B. Rani Karnavati

Rani Karnavati also known as Rani Karmavati was a princess and temporary ruler of Bundi, India. She was married to Rana Sanga of Mewar. She was the mother of the next two Ranas, Rana Vikramaditya and Rana Udai Singh, and the grandmother of Maharana Pratap. She served as guardian of her son during his minority from 1527 to 1533. She was as fierce as her husband and defended Chittor with a small contingent of soldiers until it inevitably fell to the Gujarat army, led by Bahadur Shah of Gujarat. He refused to run away and committed Jauhar to protect his honour.

After Babar captured the throne of Delhi in 1526 AD, Rana Sangram Singh or Rana Sanga of Mewar led a coalition of Rajput kings against Babar to capture the throne of Delhi. Initially, in the battle of Bayana, Rana was successful in pushing back the Mughal army. But in the battle of Khanwa, he was defeated due to Babur's superior strategy, cannons and artillery.

Queen Karnavati took over the rule in the name of her elder son Vikramaditya, who was a weak ruler. Meanwhile, Bahadur Shah of Gujarat attacked Mewar for the second time, at whose hands Vikramaditya had earlier been defeated. This was a matter of great concern for the queen.

The rival chieftains were unwilling to fight for Vikramaditya and the impending battle would certainly be another stain on the history of the Sisodys. Rani Karnavati wrote to the chieftains to come forward for the sake of Sisodia's honor and she was able to convince the chieftains to fight for Mewar if not for Vikramaditya. His only condition was that Vikramaditya and Udai Singh would have to go to Bundi during the war for their personal safety. Some later legends state that the queen also sent a rakhi to the Mughal emperor Humayun, calling him brother and asking for help. Thus his name became forever associated with the festival of Raksha Bandhan. However, this is not supported by any contemporary writer and modern historians like Satish Chandra consider it to be a legend rather than historical fact.

Rani Karnavati agreed to send her sons to Bundi and asked her trusted maid Panna Dai to accompany them and take good care of them. Panna was reluctant, but she surrendered to the queen's wishes. The Sisodias fought bravely, but were outnumbered and lost the battle. Bahadur Shah entered Chittorgarh and plundered it for the second time.

Realizing that defeat was imminent, Karnavati and other elite women of the court committed self-immolation in

Jauhar on March 8, 1534 AD, while all the men dressed in saffron clothes set out to fight to the death and thus committed Saka. This is the occasion of the second Jauhar out of the three Jauhars performed in Chittor.

C. Begum Hazrat Mahal

Even before the revolution of 1857, the Nawab had divorced Begum Hazrat Mahal. Like all the begums of the Nawab, Hazrat Mahal belonged to a family of courtesans. But the brilliant battle that Begum Hazrat Mahal fought against the British gave her a memorable place in history. By declaring her son Birjis Qadir as her successor, Begum organized the scattered army of Awadh state.

Contacted all the princely states of the region and many heroes involved in this war in North India and presented a tough challenge to the British in Lucknow. The British were successful in the end but the brave lady Hazrat Mahal did not surrender before the British as long as she was alive. She was the only heroine of this revolution, whom the British could not reach. Rejecting every offer of surrender, Begum spent her last days in poverty in Nepal.

This fight between Begum had sent Nawab Wajid Ali Shah to jail. Nawab who chose the path of surrender instead of confronting the British in 1856. Left Lucknow forever and spent the next three decades of his life in Calcutta. Instead of being angry at being snatched from the throne, he lay down at the feet of the British Queen and hoped for her mercy.

The British kept that Nawab captive for almost two years in the fear that if he was away, the people of his area might organize around him. While going to jail or as a prisoner, the Nawab kept declaring his obedience to the British rule without any complaints.

Wajid Ali Shah still had to wait a long time for his release. Meanwhile, his mother and brother, who had gone to London with a plea for the return of Awadh state, died there. By November 1858 the flame of revolution had subsided. Lord Kenig, who was till now holding the post of Governor General, was made the first Viceroy. He wrote to Wajid Ali Shah, "It would have been pleasant for me if I had accepted your request earlier. But the conditions of Awadh province made this impossible. Perhaps you were not told that for more than fifteen months the biggest enemy of the British Raj was Begum Hazrat Mahal and she usurped the rights in the name of Birjis Qadir, who represented His Majesty's family.

Referring to Begum Hazrat Mahal's escape to Nepal and her refusal to surrender, Kenning wrote that now she has become powerless, hence there is no reason to keep Her Majesty captive.

The Persian translation of this letter was handed over to Wajid Ali Shah. He said that he has always been a servant and well-wisher of the British state and will remain so throughout his life. Denying knowledge of Begum Hazrat Mahal's use of his name, he immediately dismissed Begum and Birjis from their family ties.

The Nawab was released from imprisonment on 9 July 1859. Major Harvert K Shah left for Garden Ridge. As soon as he reached there, people started competing to reach him.

II. CONCLUSION

Apart from the above, there are many women who saved their country by sacrificing their lives in this Mahayagya and immortalized their names in history. Indian history cannot forget this sacrifice of women. Our history will always be indebted to him.

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