

# Titles and Different Names of Delhi Sultans and Mughal Emperors

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**Abstract:--** Everyone in this world will have their own name and character. A name gives us an identity. We all know each other and identify each other with their name. Each and every one has their own name given by their parents or by the family members. A name means a lot; it helps us to distinguish between each other very easily. Every name has its own meaning. A person doesn't have a single name which is given by their parents; they gain many nicknames, special names and titles. These are given in accordance to their character and achievements. These nicknames and titles go viral and spread faster than their original names. Usually a name is given to a person because of some reason, because of their deeds and because of their special qualities. If a person is void of a name, he loses his identity. Identity is very important for a person to live. Identity is given by the name that he has. This paper portrays some different names acquired by the kings and emperors by their character, activities and achievements.

**Keywords:--** Name Identities, Delhi Sultans, Mughal Emperors

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The sovereign, each emperor assumed a distinct reign name and series of titles on succeeding to the throne. The Romans styled to call themselves as Caesar, Eastern Byzantine emperors adopted the title of Basileus, Japanese held the title of Akihito or Hirohito and the imperial title of the Chinese sovereign was Huang Di etc. This paper throw light on the different titles and nicknames used by the Delhi Sultans and Mughal Emperors. Historically the terms Khalifa (caliph) means successors of the prophet Mohammed, who ruled over entire Muslim territories. The institution of caliphate was born after the death of the prophet. The term Kalifa Razat Allah was for the first time addressed to Abu Bakr who succeeded the prophet after his death in 632 A.D and ruled for a brief span of time up to 634 A.D. However they were also called Amir-ul-Muminin (commander of the faithful) along with Kalifa – ul-Muslimin. The subsequent dynasties that came into power after the end of the brief tenure of the four caliphs better known as Khilafa-Al-Rashida were fascinated to assume the same title.

The term Khalifa in Islamic history essentially means absolute authority vested with the ruling power. According to muslim law the kalifa being a successor of prophet (or) Al- Sawt-al-Haiy (the living voice of islam)-The title of Sultan was first taken by Muhammad of Ghazni. Sultan means the sovereign of an Islamic country (or) an absolute ruler (or) despot. Mahmud of Ghazni was also nicknamed as But-Shikan (destroyer of idols) Qutb-ud-din-Aibak the salve of Muhammad of Ghor, Who made him the Amir-i-Akhur, the master of slave, He laid the foundation of Delhi sultanate in India. After Ghor's death and establishment of the Delhi sultanate Aibak assumed the title

of Sultan and made Lahore the capital of his empire. Qutb-ud-din means celebrity or pivot. On account of his charitable disposition he earned the title of lakhbaksh. (giver of Lakhs). This is also testified by perista while he records that when people praised anybody for his generosity they called him Aibak of the time. Prof.Habibullah has given a very four estimation of Quth-ud-din Aibak thus " A military of great energy and high merit; he combined the intrepidity of the Turk Persian; extreme liberality earned him the epithet of ' lakh bakhs' while characteristically enough, his killing is also said to have been by lakhs" In 1316 A.D Mubarak Shah ascended the throne under the title of Quth-ud-din-mubarak Shah.

In 1266 A.D. Baha-ud-din, the son of Nasir-ud-din-mahmad ascended the throne under the title of Giyas –ud-din-Balban, Giyas-ud-din means helper of religion. Ghazi malik cornated the throne in 1320 A.D under the title of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq Shah. Balban also look the title of Zill-i-allab( shadow of god) . In 1245 Balban beat of a Mongol attack on Uch (Sindh) and earned the title of Ulughkhan (Powerful lard).

Bahram Shah the third son of Iltutmish took power under the title of Muiz-ud-din-Bahram-Shah in 1240 A.D Muiz-ud-din-Bahram-Shah .means "the giver of might and glory", Kaiqubad the grandson of Balban assume the title of Muiz-ud-din Kaiqubad in 1287.A.D.

Malik ascended the throne under the title of Jalal-ud-din-khilji ,the founder of khilji dynasty. Jalal-ud-din means " glory of the faith " He was also called as shaista khan by kaiqubad as he fought many battle against Mongol.

Akbar was also given the name of Jalal-ud-din Mohammed Akbar.

Prince Jauna, son of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq declared himself as the sultan, three days after his father's death in 1325.A.D. under the title of Muhammad-Bin-Tughluq, He was the son of Turks slave father and Hindu Indian mother. His mother was known by the title Makhduma-i-Jahan. Who was known for a philanthropist, having founded many hospitals. Firuz Tughlaq tried to impart a legal basis to his authority by securing an investiture from the caliph and assuming the title of Naib-i-Amir-ul-Momini ( commander of the faithful).

Ala-ud-din khilji the second and most powerful ruler of Khilji dynasty. Ala-ud-din means nobility of religion. This name Ala-ud-din derived from the Arabic Ala-ud-din meaning 'servant of Allah', 'nobility of the religion'. It is one of the large class of names. He gave himself the title of Sikandar-I-Sani( the second Alexander) Qutb-ud-din Mubarak Shah, son of Ala-ud-din Khilji (1316-1320) assumed the khalifate title of Amir-ul-mumini and Imam-ul-Gizam. The duty of caliph is to protect both religion and polity. One who shoulders these great responsibility is known as caliph and Imam.

Khizr Khan the founder of sayyid dynasty did not assume the title of Sultan and continued to describe himself as Bandagi-i-Rayat-i-Ala and Mashad-i-Ala. His successor Mubarak Shah who ascended the throne under the title of Alamshah. Bahlal lodi ascended the throne under the title of sultan Abul muzaffar Bahul Shah Qhazi and got a khutba read in his name. His Successor Nizam Khan ascended the throne under the title of Sikandersh on 1489. Thus this titles and names used to advance political interest of the sovereign concerned to satisfy the general muslim public opinion.

Zahir-ud-din-Mohammed sur named Babur (the tiger) was born in 1483 in Andijan. Babur reached beyond Hindukush, in 1504 A.D when there was a war of succession was going on between the king of kabul, Muqim of Arghun dynasty and the nobles or Amirs They wanted to put a prince of royal blood on the throne. Babur took advantages of the situation and won over the nobles to his side and defeated Muqim and he himself become the king of Kabul, " without a fight, without an effort and by almighty God's bounty and mercy I obtained Kabul, Ghazni and their dependent districts" wrote Babur in his memoirs. After his ascending the throne of Kabul in 1504, he Consolidated his position and assumed the title of Padshah or Emperor. To raise the morale of his followers in 1506 he decided that all his followers call him Padshah. The use of the word padshah was common

currently in central Asia at that time. In his memoirs Babur himself shows that in the period following his conquest of samarqand on many occasion his followers called him "Padshah".

Humayun was an interesting figure in the history of Mughal. Humayun means the " Fortunate". He ascended throne under the title Nasir-ud-din-Muhammed Humayun. He assumed the title caliph .Humayun succeeded by Shershah, the founder of sur dynasty. His original name was Farid. One day he had gone for hunting with Bahar Khan, he killed a tiger single-handed .Bahar Khan greatly appreciated his bravery, ability and loyalty and gave him the title of Sherkhan ( tiger slayer). He was succeeded by his minor son Furuzkhan . But he was murdered by his maternal uncle, Muberkhan in 1554, Then he ascended the throne under the title of Mohammad Adilshah.

Akbar was one of the greatest ruler in the history of India, He was one of the brightest gems of Indian history. Akbar was given the name of Jalal-ud-din-Mohammed. Akbar was born on 15th October 1542. He was succeeded by Jahangir. Jahangir means " world Grasper" or " conqueror of the world". The real name of Jahangir was Mohammed Salim and he was born on August 30, 1569. Salim was the eldest son of Akbar born to Maryam-uz-zaman, a Rajput princess. He was named after the religious guru, Salim. In 1577 Salim was elevated to the rank of 10,000. He started intrigues against Akbar in 1591, to take possession of the throne. In 1599, Akbar had to go for Deccan expedition . At that time Salim was in charge of the north .He began to act as an independent ruler and setup a ,mock court at Allahbad and began to patronise with rich presents and gifts those who had supported him in his rebellion against Akbar. Therefore Akbar was forced to leave the Deccan expedition and come back to Agra at once. In Allahabad, Salim declared himself as Padshah. Prince Salim took authority under the title of Nur-ud-din-Muhammad Jahangir Padshah Ghazl.

One of the most significant events Jahangir's reign was the marriage with Nurjahan. Nurjahan's original name was " Maharunnissa". Maharunnissa was married to Ali Quli Beg, a Persian adventurer in the Mughal service in 1594. Prince Salim led an expedition against Malwa and he was accompanied by Ali Quli Beg. As he killed a tiger he was given the title of SherAfghan. When prince Salim revolted against his father, Sherafghan betrayed him. However Jahangir forgave him. When he was become the emperor he gave the Jagir in Bengal. In the meantime Afghans revolt under the leadership of Sherafghan. Hence Jahangir ordered the governor of Bengal to send SherAfgahan to the Mongol Court. When the Governor tried to surrender, Sherfghan

attacked him. Therefore the governor killed him. Later Mehaunnissa and her daughter Laldly Begun were Brought the Mughal court. She was placed under Sultana Salima Begum in 1607. In 1611 Jahangir saw her in a fancy Bazaar and was so much attracted by her beauty and he married her at the age of forty two. Nurjahan was thirty four and that time. He gave the title of "Nur-Mahal"(light of the palace). This name was changed to " Nur-Jahan" means" the light of the world".Nur jahan was also given the title Padshah Begum.

The title Padshah Begum could only be bestowed upon the chief or principal wife, a sister or a favoured daughter of mughal emperor.The title first bestowed upon Maham Begum,who was the chief wife of emperor Babur.It was held by Baga Begum during the reign of Humayun..Emperor Akbar bestowed this title on his chief wife Ruqalya sultana Begum who heeded the title for her whole life.The title Padshah Begum could not be held by more than one lady simultaneously.This was evidence by the fact that,empereor Jahangir's wife Nurjahan,could only be gives the title after his chief wife Salima Banu Begum,the Padshah Begum for most lot his reign.Senior wives of the emperor called by,the next senior were styled as Mahal and less wives and concubines were known as Bibi Sahiba.

Shahjahan was the another greatest ruler of Mughal empire .His original name was Khurram means "The Joyous". In 1606 Khurram was made the nominal in charge of the capital when Jahangir was away to suppress the revolt of Khusro. In 1612 he was married Arjumand Banu Begum renamed as Mumtazmahal means "ornament of the palace". In 1617 he brought Ahmednagar to submission . Then got the title Shahjahan. Shahjahan occupied the throne in 1628 A.D and assumed the title of Abul Muzaffer Shabad-ud-din Mohammed Shah Jahan. He called himself as Sahib-e-Giram which means the second lord of auspicious conjunction refers to a ruler whose heroscope features a particular conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn,portending a reign of world conquest and justice.

Muhi-ud-din-Mohammed Aurangzeb was born to Shahjahan and Mumtaz Mahal on 3rd November 1618 at dohad, near Ujjain. Aurangzeb ascended the throne on July 21, 1658. However the formal assession did not take place till June 15th 1659, as he was pre-occupied with the elination of his rivals. In Shahjahan's grand place, his coronation ceremony was held with great pomp and splendour. He assumed the title of Alamgir ( Conqueror of the world) and Ghazi (Holy warrior ). After Aurangzeb, his son prince Muazzm ascended the throne under the title of Bahadur Shah (or) Shab Alam.

From this titles and names used by Delhi sultans and Mughal emperors, we can understand that the medieval state under muslim rule was definitely a theocracy, since it had all its essential elements- the sovereignty of God and government by the direction of God through priest in accordance with divine laws. The Delhi Sultans considered themselves as deputies or assistance of the caliph who was God's vice-regent . The Mungal emperors considered themselves as ' Shadow of God', ' Caliph of God' and ' Agent of God on earth'. They regard themselves as protector Islam and Shar (Muslim Law). The Sultan of Delhi acknowledged the sovereignty of the caliph and considered their kingdom as a part of dar-ul- Islam( Abode of Islam) of which the caliph was the juridical head.

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