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Pandit ? Jawaharlal Nehru?

Jawaharlal Nehru's grandfather Ganga Dhar was actually a sunni muslim his real name was Gayasuddin Ghazi.

He was Kothwal of Delhi while Bahadur Shah Zafar was the Sultan of Delhi, how odd to appoint a Hindu for an important post!

Read underlined txt

FATHER OF MOTI LAL NEHRU; THE STORY OF GANGA DHAR

This is the true story of Ganga Dhar (not Ganga Dhar Nehru), father of Moti Lal Nehru. The adjunct 'Nehru' derived from the Persian word 'Nahr' meaning a canal or nullah, was adopted by Moti Lal, who, like all members of his family, had a fascination for alien Mohammedan names mostly in Arabic or Persian. The adjunct 'Nehru' added a Persian flavor to his otherwise Hindu name. That was very desirable for the family, as will be explained later. Otherwise, under normal circumstances, his name would have been Moti Lal Dhar.

The adjoining picture of Ganga Dhar was obtained from Robert Hardy Andrews' book titled A LAMP FOR INDIA - The Story of Madame Pandit (meaning Jawahar's first sister Vijay Lakshmi, alias Nan.) That book was first published by Prentice-Hall in 1967, a long time after the division of the country. But the fact on the scion of the dynasty, namely Ganga Dhar, had been kept a secret from the Indian public, primarily, the Hindus.

It is now quite clear, as you will soon see, that Ganga Dhar was an assumed name. The man we now know as the paternal grandfather of Jawahar Lal (son of Moti Lal) was in reality a sunni Mohammedan; in fact he was a Mogul nobleman. The important question is why did he then adopt a Hindu kafir's name? In this case a Kashmiri Brahmin's name?

Krishna Hutheesing (Jawahar's second sister) had also mentioned in her memoirs, that their grandfather Ganga Dhar was the city Kotwal of Delhi (an important post) prior to 1857's uprising. Bahadur Shah Zafar was still the sultan of Delhi. It was extremely unlikely that he would hire a Hindu for that very important post.

Apparently, some investigations had been made on this count (please see Mahdi Husain's Bahadur Shah II and the war of 1857 in Delhi - 1987 edition) but no one could discover Ganga Dhar's name as the Kotwal of Delhi. Well, how could they? Ganga Dhar's real name then was Ghiyasuddin Ghazi (or something like that)

Further investigations were done too, but they couldn't find the name 'Ganga Dhar' as the city's Kothwal at all.

So how did he adopt his last name as 'Nehru'?

There was a canal (Nahar) near by their house in Delhi, people started recognising them as Nehrus because of the NAHAR!

This image of Motilal at the zenith of his professional career was to undergo important changes in the last ten years of his life. But in the minds of his contemporaries it remained unaltered to the last and thirty years after his death it still lingers in popular imagination. It is usual to refer to him as a 'born aristocrat', with a 'princely' style of life and a 'right royal manner' of lavish hospitality. Motilal did not, however, inherit a kingdom, nor even an estate. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth; he had no 'gold-bearing genes'.

Motilal's family originally belonged to the valley of Kashmir, which is famous for its lofty mountains, dancing brooks, flower filled meadows and beautiful women. Early in the eighteenth century it was also noted for its scholars; one of them, Pandit Raj Kaul, caught the eye of the Mughal king Farukhsiyar when he visited Kashmir about the year 1716, and was persuaded to migrate to Delhi, the imperial capital, where he was granted a house situated on the canal which then ran through the city.

Living on the bank of the canal (nahar), Raj Kaul's descendants came to be known in the Kashmiri community as 'Nehrus', or rather 'Kaul-Nehrus'. Raj Kaul also received a few villages as jagir from the Mughal Emperor. But unfortunately his patron did not live long. Challenged by ambitious satraps and refractory nobles from within and powerful enemies from without, the Mughal Empire was in the last throes of a rapid dissolution. Farukhsiyar's brief reign had its disgraceful denouement in 1719, when he was dragged out of the harem of his own palace, deposed, imprisoned and finally done to death at the instance of his own ministers, the ambitious Syed brothers.

Raj Kaul's royal patron thus disappeared from the scene. With the decline of the imperial authority during the following years his jagir dwindled until it amounted to no more than zamindari rights in certain lands. The last beneficiaries of these rights were Raj Kaul's grand sons, Mause Ram Kaul and Saheb Ram Kaul. Mause Ram's son, Lakshmi Narayan, became the first Vakil of the East India Company at the Mughal court of Delhi. Lakshmi Narayan's son Ganga Dhar -- the father of Motilal Nehru and the grand father of Jawaharlal Nehru -- was a police officer in Delhi

Source: Encyclopaedia of Indian War of Independence 1857-1947, Vol. 13.

Link

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