

## MUHAMMAD RAHIMKHON II – ENLIGHTENED RULER AND POET

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### Abstract:

This article provides information about Sayed Muhammad Rahim Khan Soniy, one of the major Khans of the qongot dynasty, who ruled the Khiva Khanate by the author. The events of his reign in the Khiva Khanate are considered.

**Keywords:** Eltuzar, Muhammad Rahim Khan Soniy, Feruz, Said Muhammad Khan, Khudoybergan muhrkan, Ogahiy, Bobojan Torah.

### Introduction

The Khiva Khanate was ruled for the past 116 years by khans from the Uzbek Kungrat dynasty. The first ruler to officially take the title of khan from this dynasty and rule the state was Eltuzar (1770-1806), and the last khan was Said Abdullakhan (1918-1920). Is considered.

Muhammad Rahimkhan Soniy is considered the greatest representative of the Kungur dynasty that ruled the Khiva Khanate. Muhammad Rahimkhan II, who wrote under the pseudonym “Feruz”, is one of the writers who took his place in the history and literature of Uzbek statehood in the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He was a poet, musicologist, statesman, and just ruler.

Muhammad Rahim was born in 1844 in Khiva in the family of Said Muhammadkhan. He received his primary education from a private teacher, studied for some time in a madrasa, studied state and law. Muhammad Riza Ogahiy was a tutor to Bobojon Tora (Muhammad Rahim’s name in his youth), taught him the secrets of poetry, and gave him lessons in history and translation. He first heard lessons from Ogahiy about such great scholars as al-Khwarizmi, Beruni, Mahmud Zamakhshari, Najmiddin Kubro, and Pahlavan Mahmud. Later, he began to collect their creative heritage and compiled a book of Pahlavan Mahmud’s rubaiyats [5. – P. 332.].

Muhammad Rahim II ascended the throne of the Khiva Khanate on September 22, 1864, replacing his father, Sayid Muhammad Khan. The services of Hasan Murad Koshbegi and Rahmatullah Yasovulbashi were great in his ascension to the throne. Because they gathered the umars and ayans in Ark, consulted, and fought hard for the election of Babajan Tora (Muhammad Rahim’s name in his youth) as khan. According to the ancient custom in the khanate, the eldest son of the deceased khan was supposed to ascend the throne instead of his father. Muhammad Rahim Tora was 19 years old at that time. He ruled the khanate for 47 years and 15 days [3. – B. 12.].

The famous Khorezm historian Muhammad Yusuf Bayani in his work “Shajarayi Khorezmshahi” gives the following information about the accession of Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni to the throne: “Hasan Murad Kushbeg gathered all the umars and arkoni of the state, placed Karukll Babao, the chief of the thousand, and Alloberdiboy at the gate of the Ark and said: “Let in the wise men, let in no one else! “ They sat down in front of the gate. When everyone gathered, the Amir said: “O umars and a’yans, Babajon, that is, Muhammad Rahsh Tora, is young and there is chaos in the country. It would be better if one person were khan in one khorazon. What advice do you give on this matter?” No one responded. Hasan Murad Kushbeg said: “Yes, this is true. But we do not like



the transfer of the state from this family to another.” Then Rahmatullo Yasovulbashi looked at Amir Tora and said: “Your becoming a khan is not acceptable to anyone.” Amir Tora said: “Who is not acceptable to?” The Yasovulbashi said: “This is for everyone in the Olturgan community.” Then everyone cried out in unison: “Bobojan Tora is our khan.” Amir Tora said: “It is very good. May the khanate be blessed for Bobojan.”

The day after Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni ascended the throne, the state assembly gathered, and Sayyid Muhammadkhan (father of Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni) read the funeral prayers of the deceased and buried him in the dome he had built. The complex where his mausoleum is located is called “Sayyid Mohi ro`yi jahon”. Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni was also buried here after his death. After Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni ascended the throne, his teacher Ogahi wrote him a 200-line ode. This ode became famous among the people and was called “Qasidai nasih”. Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni ordered the famous marble carver of Khorezm, Khudoybergan Muhrkan, to engrave this ode on a marble stone. This stone is currently kept in the “Ichan Qala” museum-reserve in Khiva, in the Applied Arts Department [4. – P. 243.].

During his reign, Sayyid Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni gathered around him officials who were devoted to justice and truth. First of all, he received such honor due to the fact that he worked together with his uncle, the wise Ibrahim Khoja, the poet and translator Ogahi, the accomplished artist, poet and historian Bayani, the poet and statesman Pakhlavonniyoz Mirzabashi, the far-sighted Islam Khoja Naqib, the judge Muhammad Latif Ahun, the brave and courageous Matmurod Devanbegi, the valiant Rahmatullo Yasovulbo, Abdullah Mahram and the justice minister Sheikhnazarboy.

Muhammad Rahimkhan Feruz, it was customary to administer the state through the Supreme Council for a certain period. This council included persons with the positions of mehtar, kushbegi, naqib, sheikhul islam, mirab, qazi, otalik, inaq, and bi. [ 3. – B.12.].

The works of Ogahiy and Bayaniy, who were contemporaries of Feruz, provide valuable information about the activities of Sayid Muhammad Rahimkhan II. In his work “Shahid ul Iqbol”, Ogahiy describes the political and social events that took place in the Khiva Khanate in 1865-1872 and covers the years of Muhammad Rahimkhan II’s reign. In this work, Ogahiy describes the military campaigns of the Khiva Khan Muhammad Rahimkhan II, who subdued the Yavmuts, and then went on a trip and hunt, and records information about the geographical area of the khanate in 1866. Bayaniy’s work “Shajarayi Khorezmshahiy”, written at the behest of the Khiva Khan Asfandiyar Khan, covers historical events that occurred in Khorezm from ancient times to 1913-1914. Starting from Chapter 15 of the work, the history of the era of Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni is covered [2. – P. 21.].

Modern historians divide the reign of Sayid Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni into two stages. The first stage – 1864 – 1873, the first decade of the Khan’s reign, during which Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni independently ruled the state, establishing peace and prosperity in the country, promoting agriculture, trade and crafts, science and culture. The second stage – covers the period from August 1873 to 1910. After Khiva was captured by Russian troops led by General Kaufman in 1873, the Khiva Khanate became a dependent state of Russia according to the concluded truce. During this period, the activities of Sayid Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni were strictly limited and controlled by the government of Tsarist Russia [1. – P. 344.].

During the reign of Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni, special attention was paid to the fields of



science, art, and poetry. Muhammad Rahimkhan Soni was fond of literature from his youth. He diligently studied the works of poets such as Alisher Navoi, Munis, Ogahiy, and Kamil Khorezmi, and wrote poems following them, and gave his poems the pseudonym “Feruz” (Victory, Happy, Blessed). Feruz paid great attention to the field of science and culture. He gathered poets, historians, scientists, translators, calligraphers, doctors, and musicians around his palace. He gathered poets and musicians around him and organized ghazal and poetry evenings every week. Bayani wrote about this: “His Majesty the Khan would have conversations with scholars and have them read books two days a week: on Friday and Monday evenings.” Feruz himself wrote poetry, sang songs, and composed music. This is confirmed by his works “Ghazaliyot Feruz”, “Bayozi Feruz”, and “Divoni Feruz”, which are kept in the Institutes of Oriental Studies named after Abu Rayhn Beruni and Kh. Sulaymanov of Manuscripts of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as in the libraries of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and countries such as Britain, France, and Turkey [4. – P. 333.].

By order of Muhammad Rahimxon Feruz, in 1874, book printing equipment was brought from Iran under the contract of Ibrahim Sultan. Thus, the first printing house in Central Asia, lithography, was established. His apprentice, Otajon Obdol oglu from Khiva, soon learned the secrets of this art and founded the Khiva Printing House.

Feruz Pahlavon himself copied and compiled 350 rubaiyats of Mahmud. Several manuscripts and lithographed divans of the poet and composer have survived to our time. Two of them are kept in Leningrad, four in Tashkent, and two in the Khiva Museum-Reserve.

During the reign of Feruz, German Mennonite farms were relocated to Khiva from Russia. Young Khudoybergan Devonov learned the art of photography from the German Wilhelm Penner, whom the locals called “Grandpa Panor”, and was the first to establish the art of cinematography in Central Asia.

Muhammad Rahimkhan Soniy also paid special attention to architecture. Many structures were built during his reign. He built a summer mosque and a porch at the tomb of Pahlavon Mahmud. He built a qarikhan and a mosque southwest of the Shahimardan gate. He built a large madrasah with 76 rooms in front of the old arch. On the four peshtoks in the inner courtyard of the madrasah, two poems by Ogahi and two by Kamil Khorezmi are written in Arabic, in naskh script [4. – P. 249.].

Muhammad Rahimkhan Soniy – Feruz died on August 16, 1910 from paralysis (some sources say from paralysis). Feruz was survived by 6 sons: Askar, Muhammadyor, Sayid Abdulla, Sayid Asfandiyor, Ibodulla, and Muhammad Yusuf. After Muhammad Rahimkhan Soniy, his fourth son, Sayid Asfandiyor, ascended the throne on August 16, 1910 [4. – P. 250.].

To summarize, during the reign of Muhammad Rahim Khan Soni, he not only centralized the state, but also paid great attention to the development of science, art, literature, and the art of bookkeeping. Efforts were made to improve the condition of the people. Many madrasas and mosques were built, new canals were dug. The Khan also paid attention to the development of trade and crafts in the country. During his time, more than 700 artisan shops operated in the city of Khiva alone.



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