

“Jai Ekling Nath” Works and personality of Yuga-vataari Maharana Pratap (9 May 1540)

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In the Indian history, Maharana Pratap is greatest ruler of medieval period in Mewar dynasty. He was the eldest son of Maharana Udai Singh ji and mother name “Jevantabai,” daughter of Shamak Akshayraj Songara of Pali. He was born on **Jyeshtha Sudi 3, 1597 Vikarm Samvat** under the auspicious **Adra Nakshatra**.

Due to being born in Adra Nakshatra, not only was his Nakshatra considered auspicious but the astrologers announced at that time that he would also brighten his family name. But Pratap neither got his father’s love nor Akhairaj Nana’s shadow remained on his head for long because Nana was also (Vikram samvat 1600) a martyr in Giri Sumal Battle. He spent his childhood day in the foothills of Chittor.

At the age of about 17, Pratap got married to Ajabde Kunwar, daughter of Rao Mamrakh Panwar. After that from her womb Amar Singh I was born on 1613 Chaitra Sudi 7 Thursday (16 March 1559). On this occasion, Maharana Udai Singh went to Eklingji for darshan and from there he went to the village to hunt for deer and after taking advice from his chieftains and nobles, he established the present city of Udaipur.

Third Saka and Pratap of Chittor:

When Akbar attacked Chittor in 1567 AD, Maharana Uday Singh left Chittorgarh on the special request of the major chieftains and generals of Mewar. Although at that time Pratap expressed his desire to stay there to protect Chittor, but the chieftains did not consider it appropriate to keep the future Maharana of Mewar at risk and sent

him along with his father to the mountains. On 23 February 1568, **Jauhar** took place and Chittor was captured by Akbar. **Saka** of Chittor had a deep impact on Pratap’s heart. The mass genocide committed by Akbar’s forces ignited a burning hatred in his heart towards Akbar. The sacrifice of Chittor’s warriors, who laid down their lives to protect their homeland, family pride, and religion, profoundly influenced Pratap’s worldview. This event served as the bedrock for his lifelong struggle against the Mughal Empire.

Suppression of Bagadia Chauhans:

Pratap first exhibited his valor and strategic acumen by attacking the Bagadia Chauhans. Savaldas’s cousin Kalsi was killed in the battle on the banks of river Som. After the defeat of Bagadia Chauhan, Mewar gained control over a large area of **Bagad**. Due to this Pratap’s growing fame began to draw the admiration of both the common people and the feudal lords.

Coronation of Pratap:

After living with his father in tough terrain and Kumbhalmer, Pratap established his place in Gogunda and between that Maharana Udai Singh died on Thursday, 28 February 1572 AD. Although Maharana Udai Singh had declared his son Jagmal as his successor under the influence of his favorite queen, Rani Dhirbai Bhatiyani. After the death of Maharana, Jagmal ascended the throne and did not participate in the cremation of his father. Therefore, the former ruler of Gwalior, Ramshah Tanwar,

inquired about Jagmal, then all the chieftains came to know that Jagmal was made his successor. Pratap's uncle Man Singh Songara raised objection on this and said to Rawat Sanga (ancestor of Devgarh people) "You are the descendant of Chunda, hence this work should have been done with your consent. Then Rawat Krishnadas (ancestor of Salumber people) and Sangarecognized Pratap's worthiness and installed him as the rightful Maharana, hence he will become Maharana of Mewar.

Pratap made Kumbhalgarh and Gogunda the main centers and started governing his Mewar state. First of all, Pratap captured this area by suppressing Chhappaniya Rathores in Vambhore and Salumber area. At that time Akbar had control over the north-east and south-east areas of Mewar. And almost all the kings of Rajasthan had accepted Akbar's subordination. Pratap was the only one in India who did not bow his head before the Mughal emperor. After becoming Pratap's successor, Akbar kept watching his activities for a year and kept hoping that Pratap would follow other kings and present himself in the royal service, but this did not happen, so Akbar sent his messengers to understand Pratap.

Decided to.

Akbar sent three ambassadors to subjugate Pratap:

1. First of all, as per the orders of Akbar, Kunwar Mansingh Kachhwaha came to Pratap from Gujarat via Idar and Dungarpur in April 1573. Pratap has Welcomed Man Singh at Udai Sagar near Udaipur. Mansingh explained a lot to Pratap and requested him to go to the Mughal Royal court but Pratap did not agree.
2. On 2 September 1573, there was again a rebellion in Gujarat which was suppressed. From there, some commanders under the chairmanship of Raja Bhagwant Das (Amer) were ordered to go to the Pratap. Bhagwantdas went to Gogunda to meet Pratap. Pratap welcomed the king respectfully. But he skillfully avoided the matter of being present in Akbar's court.
3. Only after two months, on the orders of Akbar, King Todarmal, returning from Gujarat to the capital, met Pratap but he had to return in despair. Even after much persuasion by the kings and emperors, Pratap did not accept Akbar's subordination and remained firm on his previous decision. What will be the result of this? Pratap knew this very well. Therefore, he intensified

the campaign of his military organization.

Battle of Haldighati:

Kunwar Man Singh to attack Maharana Pratap on 2 April 1576 AD. After leaving Ajmer, he reached Mandalgarh, stayed for two months and equipped the royal army and then his army moved towards Gogunda. In between they camped at villages Mohi and Molela. When Pratap got information about this, he started from Gogunda and came to Lohsingh. This place is nine miles south-west of Haldighati. The road leading to Haldighati from here was so narrow and narrow that not more than two people could walk through it simultaneously. If Pratap and his force had stopped and waited for the Mughal army, the army would have to come through this narrow path where they would have been killed in the narrow valley. But Pratap and his warriors were anxious to fight in the open field. Therefore, Pratap reached Khamnor via a difficult military route. This war took place on 18 June 1576 AD. It happened early in the morning in the wide plain between Haldighati and Khamnor village. In Maan Prakash, written in praise of Man Singh, it is written, "Pratap said to Madhav Singh, the younger brother of Man Singh Kachhwah, that whatever joy you are experiencing in this battlefield, in a moment I along with King Maan will render you joyless due to my desire to win. I am saying this by taking oath of allegiance. For the first time, the Mughal army ran away but the tables were turned. Ramdas Medatiya, Gwalior King Ramshah and his three sons, Many Modas like Jhala Bida, Jhala Maan, Matir

Songara, Rawat Naivasi, Hakim Khan Sur etc. fought valiantly and made the ultimate sacrifice as martyrs. Although the Mughal army won, The war was fought with an objective, but Pratap was neither captured nor did his attitude change. After the battle of Haldighati, the Mughal army advanced towards Pratap's residence Gogunda. Took over. Pratap now fixed strong place in the fort of Kumbhalgarh. After some time, Pratap established his position in Kamalnath (Kolyari) and from there he attacked Gogunda and drove away the Mughals from there. Pratap kept getting support from the kings of states like Sirohi, Jalore and Idar etc.

Akbar's invasion:

In the month of October 1576, Akbar himself decided to attack Mewar. He believed that the work which his commanders could not do. If he could, he would complete

it. For this He Left from Ajmer on 13 October 1576 AD. Under the leadership of Qutubuddin, Raja Bhagwatdas and Kunwar Mansingh were sent to Gogunda. When Pratap got this information, he left Gogunda and went back towards Kolyari (Kamalnath). Despite many efforts by the royal army, Pratap could not be found. Akbar stopped at village Mohi and made several arrangements to capture Pratap. Commanders were appointed in areas like Mohi and Madaria etc, and the campaign to search for Pratap was intensified. All efforts failed. Abul Fazal writes that “He went to the Rana’s territory but, finding no trace of him, returned without permission.” on which Akbar got angry and closed his court’s door for Abul fazal, which was reinstated after apologizing. After getting frustrated, Akbar left Udaipur on 27 November 1576 and went to Malwa via Banswara. Akbar stayed in Mewar for about one and a half months and used all his strength and wisdom to suppress

Pratap, but he did not get success. As soon as Akbar left, Pratap again took control of Mewar and the Mughal posts were removed. Major roads leading from Mewar were closed, farmers stopped farming in the royal areas. The Mughal army had to face huge problems of transportation and ration supply. To suppress Pratap, Akbar had sent a huge army thrice and had also come himself but he had failed.

Shahbaz Khan’s attacks on Pratap:

On October 15, 1577, an army was again sent against Pratap under the leadership of Shahbaz Khan and Mir Bakshi, in which Raja Bhagwantdas Kuwar Mansingh was also present. This time this army captured the strong fort of Kumbhalgarh. Decided to do. First Shahbaz Khan captured Kelwada situated in the foothills of Kumbhalgarh and later laid siege to Kumbhalgarh. The responsibility of protecting the fort was handed over to Pratap’s maternal uncle Songra along. Bhan etc. Rajputs opened the fort gate and fought and they came in handy on 3rd April 1578 AD. Kumbhalgarh was captured but Pratap was not captured again.

Pratap left Kumbhalgarh and went to Ranakpur. Then lived for a long time in Chulia village of Edar state. Bhamashah and Tarachand went to Rampura and took shelter. After Shahbaz Khan left Mewar, Bhamashah returned from Rampura and looted the villages of Malwa and Mewar and gave a lot of wealth to Maharana Pratap. In place of Rama Mahasani, Bhamashah was made the Prime Minister. After Chulia, he returned to Kamalnath

(Avargarh) as his place.

About a month later, Akbar again ordered Shahbaz Khan to go to Mewar and was told that if he did not subdue the Maharana, his head would be blown off. Therefore, on 15 December 1578, he left for Mewar from Fatehpur Sikri. Even after taking strict action for almost three months, Pratap was not found anywhere.

Third invasion of Shahbaz Khan and departure of Pratap to Godwad:

On 11 November 1579, Shahbaz Khan left from Sambhar to attack Pratap for the third time. This time many Rajputs were killed while fighting Shahbaz Khan. Royal lookouts were established at important places. And Pratap’s activities started being closely monitored, then Pratap went towards Godwad in the mountains of Sudhan. It was under the authority of Deval Padihars. Thakur Raidhaval Deval of Loyana place welcomed Pratap very much and married his daughter to him. Pratap built a stepwell and planted garden in Sundha. . Raidhawal Deval was honored with the title. When Shahbaz Khan went on the Bengal campaign in May 1580, Pratap again came to Mewar and stayed in the village of Dholan (Dhol is the name of a village in the present Sagara region).

Battle of Diver and Pratap’s victorious campaign:

Pratap attacked the royal outpost of Diver village located at the eastern end of the Diver valley of the Aravalli mountain range, 40 kilometers north of Kumbhalmer. There the appointed royal officer Sultan Khan led the royal army riding on an elephant. Pratap’s warriors cut the elephant’s legs with a sword strike, due to which the elephant fell. The Sultan mounted the horse and started fighting. Kunwar Amar Singh displayed great bravery in this war. It is written in Amarkavya that he tied Sultan Khan and the horse together with his spear, after which the other soldiers ran away and Pratap was victorious. Amer and other royal police stations became Pratap’s possession. Pratap had unprecedented success in this war. James Todd called it the “Marathon of Mewar”.

Victory of Kumbhalmer:

After the victory of Diwar war, Pratap turned his attention towards Kumbhalmer. He camped at the Kumbhalmer reservoir along with the leading warriors. When the royal soldiers came to know about this, they got scared of Pratap and ran away from the fort without

fighting. Pratap captured the fort and made proper security arrangements there. After this they took control of Chhappan and Jawar. In this way, Pratap, by living in the mountains and using the Guerilla warfare system, defeated the huge Mughal power. He made excellent arrangements for keeping vigil on the mountain peaks and passes by appointing Bhils and trusted people. Due to which the movements of the Mughal army were kept track of. Bhils used to convey information about the activities of the enemy army through gestures or by shouting loudly. Due to which Pratap used to alert himself.

Chavand Capital:

Pratap's attention now went to the hilly area of Chhappan where the Ghappaniya Rathods, descendants of Soang Rathod, had the authority. At that time, Luna Rathod of Chanvad was the chief among the jagirdars there. Therefore, Pratap reached there and suppressed it and established his capital there in Chavand. For living, a palace, rooms, chaupal and other buildings were constructed on a hill. And built the temple of Chamunda Devi. Pratap spent the rest of his life happily in Chavand.

Victory over Dungarpur and Baswada:

When Pratap's position became stronger, he was decided to punish the rulers of Dungarpur and Banswara because they did not support Pratap and accepted Akbar's subordination. An army was sent under the leadership of Bhan Sarangdevot. Battle was fought on the banks of river Som in which Pratap won. Maharawal of Dungarpur Askaran and Maharawal of Banswara Pratap Singh accepted Pratap's subordination.

Opposition from Pratap's brothers:

Pratap's brother Shakti Singh had entered the royal service during his father's reign. At the time of Pratap's coronation, his younger brother Jagmal got angry and went to Akbar. Akbar had given the state of Sirohi to Surtan Deora and Jagmal. Pratap's brother considered

Sagar Surtan fatal for Jagmal. Therefore, being displeased with Pratap, he went to serve Akbar. He also had a younger brother with him. Thus, one after the other, Pratap's brothers went into royal service.

Jagannath Kachhwaha's attacks on Mewar:

After about four years, Akbar's attention again turned towards Pratap. On 5 December 1584, Akbar sent Jagannath Kachhwaha, the younger son of Raja Bharmal

of Amer, against

Pratap, Jagannath's army reached Mandalgarh. Pratap equipped his army to face him. When Jagannath's army reached a valley, Pratap left from the other end of the valley and went towards Mandalgarh. Jagannath tried his best to trace Pratap but he did not get success. After a few months, Jagannath got the clue of Pratap. The royal army reached there on 17 September 1587, but before that Pratap left from there and went to Godwad. After some time, Pratap returned from Godwad and came to Chavand and started living there permanently.

With this, Pratap's period of crisis ended. Pratap now launched a campaign to establish his authority over the Mughal occupied areas. Kunwar Amar Singh attacked the Mughal lookouts and drove them away from Gogunda, Mohi, Madaria, Amet, Udaipur. By 1588 AD, 36 Mughal police outposts were raised and captured till Jahazpur. Then Pratap spent eight years of his life peacefully in Chavand.

It was a great desire of Pratap to capture Chittor Fort and for this he had also taken a pledge that until the fort of his ancestors was not conquered. Till I finish, I will eat on leaves and sleep on a bed of grass. He kept this pledge throughout his life. Pratap's tough pledge and life of struggle gave much needed inspiration to the people here.

Death of Pratap:

In January 1597, while hunting a tiger, he died due to the back end of an arrow entering his intestine due to pulling the bow string. That wound gradually increased and Pratap became ill. Seeing the sadness on Pratap's face, Rawat of Salumber asked the reason for this, then Pratap told that I am familiar with the nature of my son Amar Singh, he likes comfort, hence I have a doubt whether he will be able to protect the pride of Mewar and his dynasty. If I pledge to protect the pride of Mewar state after me, my soul can leave this body. When all the chieftains of Mewar present there took the oath of assuming the throne of Bappa Rawal, Pratap departed from this temporary world on **19 January 1597**, and with this a golden era of freedom struggle came to an end. In the words of Dr. Raghuveer Singh Sitamau, "Those who sacrifice everything and sacrifice even their lives for their sacred ideals, do not suffer any kind of decay, even death grants them immortality, then these brave souls Unbroken rule is established over human hearts and the immortal vine of his fame continues to

spread and flourish at the confluence of the imagination of poets, the devotion of literary people and the goodwill of the common people.

The fame of Pratap not only spread to the remotest corners of India but also became known in England and Europe, the major centers of power and culture in the the world.

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