

## **Bais: Brave Soldiers of Badaun**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This is a translated excerpt from the Hindi book Badaun ke Ranbankure Rajput which is written by Surendra Mohan Mishra in 1993. Each chapter of the book gives a detailed analysis of each clan of brave Rajputs of Badaun. The present translated version is about Bais Rajputs who are counted among the thirty-six princely clans of Kshatriyas. Colonel Tad did not consider them important as there was no special mention of this caste in the texts "Raso" and "Kumar Pal Charitra". Bais people were living under the majestic kingdom of Kannauj by making their own small kingdoms. No details of this period are available. When the sun set for the great glory of the Gaharwar kings of Kannauj, then the descendants of Maharaja Jaichand took refuge in distant safe places. A group of Bais Rajputs migrating from Kannauj region also came to Badaun district of Rohilkhand. Five miles south of Bisauli, they built their own huge fort named Kot Shalivahan. It is said that once Bais was the fort of Rajputs. The name of this fort was Bishan and Bais Raja Gaj built it. Dunde Khan had only repaired it. The East India Company sold this Bisauli fort to Donald Saheb, an Englishman of Bilsa. These Bais Rajputs fought the fourth war in Nardauli. With them, the low flag Bardar had come in the army, he was given this village after winning it. Even today, these people are called flag bearers.

**Keywords:** *Bais, Badaun, Rajputs, Qutubuddin Aibak, King Shalivahan.*

Bais Rajputs are counted among the thirty-six princely clans of Kshatriyas. Colonel Tad did not consider them important as there was no special mention of this caste in the texts "Raso" and "Kumar Pal Charitra". He was satisfied by giving only four lines in his Rajasthan Granth. All the villages of Bais Rajputs are settled in many districts of Uttar Pradesh.

A mythological king Basu is considered to be the former man of Bais. Emperor Harsh Vardhan has also been called Bais Rajput. King Shalivahan was born in the same famous dynasty. Probably their kingdom was in Kather only. The capital of this state was near Bisauli in Badaun district, which was called Kot Shalivahan. Another name of this king was also Samudrapal. Eleven Pala kings of this dynasty ruled in Badaun region.

The ten branches of Bais; Kot, Bahr, Kath, Daundiya, Trilokchandi, Pratishtan Puria Chandausia, Rawat, Kumbhi, Narwaria and Bhale Sultan are famous. Nag Puja is special among Baisas. Their kings had also placed a symbol of snake on their flag.

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safe places. The feudatories under them had to flee from their place. The whole of northern India was in disarray state at this time. The arrogance of the Chauhans of Delhi and Ajmer had been shattered.

The next year, the mighty kingdom of Kannauj also broke apart together. The sound of the victorious armies of Muhammad Ghori started vibrating in all the ten directions.

A group of Bais Rajputs migrating from Kannauj region also came to Badaun district of Rohilkhand. Five miles south of Bisauli, they built their own huge fort named Kot Shalivahan. It is said that once Bais was the fort of Rajputs. The name of this fort was Bishan and Bais Raja Gaj built it. Dunde Khan had only repaired it. The East India Company sold this Bisauli fort to Donald Saheb, an Englishman of Bilsi. After the revolt of 1857, many buildings of Bisauli town were built from the bricks of this fort. In relation to King Shalivahan, Thal Ishwar Singh Madad has given a story in his “Rajput genealogy” book –

“He conquered many countries and established a kingdom there and brought many of his daughters to his palace. Disappointed by this incident, his first three Kshatrani queens went to their father's house. The descendants of these three queens continued to be called Bais even later, but the children who were born from the queens who came later were called Kathbais. He was the ruler of Pratishtanpur. In front of them, a descendant accepted the suzerainty of the rulers of Delhi, but soon the Bais Raja Trilok Chand stopped paying taxes.” Due to which the then king of Delhi, Vikram Pal attacked Pratishtanpur. In which he and his entire army were killed and Trilokchand Bais took over Delhi. The genealogy of the successors of Trilokchand Bais on Delhi is as follows - Trilokchand, Vikram Chand, Karthikchand, Ramchandra, Adharchandra, Kalyanchandra, Bhimchandra, Bodhchandra, Govindchandra and Premadevi. After Premdevi, the kingdom of Baisas ended from here.

Even after the possession of Qutubuddin Aibak over Budaun, the small kingdoms of the Kshatriyas remained as they were. Almost all had accepted to pay taxes to the Delhi Sultanate. The rule of Bais Rajputs continued by making Kot Shalivahan the centre. During the period of Tughlaq or Khiljis, after attacking Kot, the Bais were forced to settle in the nearby village of Bhanpur.

A batch of Bais Rajputs also reached Bulandshahr district. Two brave brothers named Abhaychand and Nirbhay Chand went to Awadh, defeated the Bhar king of Buxar and established the kingdom of Bais Rajputs. Rae Bareilly was earlier called Bharauli only because

of the influence of the Bharar caste. The town named Salo of this district is situated on the bank of a big lake. It is said to be the residence of King Shalivahan.

Despite being very small, Unnao district is associated with many historical and mythological stories. The place where King Dasharatha had killed Shraavan by illusion is now called Savaran. Kshatriyas cannot settle in this village because of the curse. The Kshatriyas who tried to settle here were ruined, and they were again settled there. Sita was sacrificed here in Pariyar. Valmiki Ashram was also here across the Ganges. Luv Kush were also born here.

Buxar and then Dondia Kheda were the two main centers of Bais Rajputs in this area. King Abhay Chand had built the first temple of Bakeshwar in Buxar and named the city after him, which later on distorted to Buxar. A popular legend associates this name with Bakasura, whom Krishna killed.

King Trilok Chandra became very majestic in this royal family of Buxar, whose grandson Devaraya established a new capital at Dondiya Kheda with his muscle power. The difference between the two capitals was only of three miles. Kanak Singh became a majestic and wealthy king in the fifth generation of Devaraya. This king gave respect and wealth to many scholars.

“Kanak Prakash, the creator of the Ayurveda text, Ramakrishna, the great scholar of Kayastha Sanskrit, found shelter in his court. Raja Achal Singh was the ruler of Dondiya Kheda during the period of Awadh Nawabs. These kings gave wealth and honor to poets like Mahakavi Dev, Sukhdev Mishra and Shambhunath. Patriotic rebels like Raja Rambakhsh were also given by this family who was hanged from a tree in 1858. Since then, Dondiya Kheda has been ruined. Ghatampur was settled in the villages inhabited by Bais Sardars, about seven hundred years ago by a Bais Rajput named Ghatam Dev. Bhagwant Kunwari, the wife of some Raomardan Singh of Daundiya Kheda, established the town of Bhagwant Nagar. There are many other small villages in Unnao district inhabited by Bais Rajputs. The canals of Bais kings at Usait, a place in Badaun district are still being used for irrigation.

There are also some good scholars in this caste even today. Kaka Bais Bari and Shishupal Singh "Nirdhan" are famous poets of this caste.

The settled family of Kheda Jalalpur has also been one of the reputed families of Badaun district. There were many important people in this family. A melodious lyricist of this family, Mr. Munna Singh “Aanchal”, while presenting the history of his ancestors, tells that among our ancestors, Thal Veer Singh and Thal Shivpal Singh came from Daundiya Kheda (Unnao).

After going to Kannauj, he came to play hunting in the river of Ganges under Kampil. At the same time, a person suddenly meets in the forest, on inquiry it comes to know that the Brahmins are being persecuted by the Gaunt tribal kings. These people used to make brahmins do lowly deeds. Hearing this agony, both the Bais brothers decided to defeat the Gaunt kings. The festival of Holi was decided as the day of the attack. When the tribals were lying down about the gauntlet, they were attacked. It is famous that a person of Gaunt caste was killed. This first battle took place in Pathara Mayi village. Pathara Mayi village was given to the same Brahmin. Even today this village is called the stone of Brahmins. Similarly, Baura village was established in the name of Thaal Baur Singh.

The second battle took place between Gaunt and Baison in Kheda Jalalpur. The strongest fort of the Gaunt kings was here. These Rajputs completely destroyed the Gaunt tribals. The whole village was made a kheda. The new name of the village was changed to Kheda Jalalpur.

The wells of the Gaunt kings can still be seen in Kheda Jalalpur. The Bais kings got canals out in this area, which have been used for irrigation. Three of these canals are still in existence. One canal from Usait and goes Eastward through Shahpur village.

The third war took place in Rijaura (Rijola). After the liberation of Rijaura, there was a war between the seven sons of Shivpal Singh over partition and boundary. In this war, Thal Shivpal Singh was killed along with his three sons. Among the four remaining brothers, Rijaura was established in the name of Thal Rijaur Singh. The remaining three brothers remained in Kheda Jalalpur. Out of these, Budhau Thok settled in the name of Thana Buddhupal Singh. In the name of Thaal Ganes Singh, Satyana was established in the name of Gaines Thok and Thaal Shaitan Singh. The distribution of festivals among the three Thoks is going on even today.

Budhu Thok used to have all the decisions of Rajputs at Badi Chaupal. The Ganes Thokwalas made all the arrangements for Holi festival. Even today a big fair is held on the first day of Fagun by the name of Phool Dol. Basant Panchami used to be a festival on Styna Thok.

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And among the descendants of Shaitan Singh, the name of Raja Karan Singh is taken with great respect. There was no other great donor and justice-loving king like him in this area. Old people

tell many of their stories with great reverence. On every festival, a pall of wheat and a basket of sweets were distributed to the poor. There was a system of free food to the poor.

At least 300 men had regular food arrangements. The story of Malpuas is still narrated by people with great chatter. Once a year, Malpuas were made and distributed to the general public for a week after closing the roads.

Forty-two milking buffaloes were brought to the Tehsildar's village Jagat on the demand of milk on the occasion of the marriage of Raja Karan Singh's daughter by a famous Tehsildar of Saraswat Brahmins of Jagat village. Many stories of such charity have been prevalent in relation to Raja Karan Singh. Once, a thousand men arrived from the princely state of Bikaner due to drought. They were given livelihood by Raja Karan Singh for six months. A huge court room was built among these people. Raja Karan Singh Secondary School is currently running in this Kothi. It is being operated by Thana Munna Singh "Aanchal".

In the lineage of Thal Gaines Singh, there has been a very powerful, domineering and just person Thal Shoran Singh. Among the wrestlers, Raghuveer Singh has been famous. He had a perfect hand in playing the sitar. I am not able to resist the temptation to give few lines of a song by a melodious lyricist of the same family "Aanchal" –

Maine to tere angan se khushion ki barat maang li.

Allhad si kalion se maine yovan ki sogat mang li.

Koi mang rha Sugandh ko

Koi mange hai parag ko

Koi mange meethe sapne

Koi mange Madhur rag ko

Maine jhuki hui palkon se sindoori saugat maang li.

Koi mange chand chakori

Koi man ki kiran mangta

Koi mange subah rupahli

Koi man ki Dulhan mangta

Maine unke hothon se apne man ki baat mang li. (Badaun ke Ranbankure Rajput)

In another branch of Bais Rajputs came two brothers Trilok Chandra and Manik Chandra. About six hundred years ago, Khausara's famous temple of Baldau ji was built. One of these

descendants Bhanu Sahay settled Bhanpur. The other brother Guman Sahay established Gudni village. Raja Todar Singh got the raw temple built which Bhanu Sahay paved.

This family of Bais Rajputs was not only respected by the state, but this family was also highly respected by the public. Raja Todar Singh has been an influential person of this family. His first queen was Chandan Singh and second queen was Rao Dalel Singh, Raja Pitambar Singh and Rao Baldev Singh.

Rao Baldev Singh had protected the British memes and the children in 1857, so the Anglo government was especially kind to them. His brother, Thal Chandan Singh, revolted to overthrow the Anglo government. Keeping in mind the services of Rao Baldev Singh, the rebellion of Thal Chandan Singh was also forgiven.

Thal Chandan Singh had two sons, Rao Giridhari Singh and Thal Daulat Singh. Rao Saheb established Girdharpur village in his name. Rao Girdhari Singh had four sons, out of which only the eldest son Rao Narayan Singh's lineage continued.

The stories of Rao Brij Bhushan Singh are told with great enthusiasm in all the villages of Badaun district. His court used to be held at 12 o'clock in the night. Private secretary Himanchal Singh, driver Kunj Bihari Lal, Mulua Khansama and chief employee Khushboo Singh have also become immortal in the stories of Rao Saheb. Rao Saheb died on 20 November 69. Rao Saheb had three sons, Thal Tejendra Pratap Singh, Thal Ravinder Pal Singh and Thal Prempal Singh. Tejendra ji was married to Damayanti Devi, daughter of Kunwar Hakim Singh in the prestigious Tomar family of Hazrat Ganj. Tejendra ji met with an untimely death in 1950. His son Kunwar Kishore Pal Singh is now the village head.

Kunwar Ravinder Pal Singh has two sons Dinesh Pal Singh and Brijendra Pal Singh. Kunwar Prempal Singh has done important work for education in this area by establishing an inter college in Bairamai village. Establishment of an inter college in this small village is a remarkable incident, for which all the credit goes to Kunwar Prempal Singh.

Kunwar Daulat Singh's son Sher Singh had two sons, Parshottam Singh and Nabab Singh. Nabab Singh's other name was also Pratap Bhan Singh. He currently has three sons, Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Rakesh Kumar Singh and Guddu Singh.

Raja Todar Singh had a son Rao Dalel Singh from another queen. They had two sons, Ramchandra Singh and Laxman Singh. Thal Ram Chandra Singh had two sons, Thal Devi

Singh and Thal Balwant Singh. Thal Laxman Singh had a son, Thal Brijraj Singh. Brijraj Singh had four sons, Than Puran Pal Singh, Than Kishan Pal Singh, Than Aram Singh and Than Kailash Singh.

Among them, Thal Kishanpal Singh was a freedom fighter. The presented book “Ranbankure Rajput of Badaun” has been published with his inspiration and cooperation. Rana ji gave the same respect to the author of these lines, which was given to the poets by the kings at some point of time.

Raja Pitambar Singh, the second son of Raja Todar Singh, passed away in 1850. His son Rao Purandar Singh had three sons, Rao Ram Chandra Singh, Kunwar Sardar Singh and Kunwar Hori Singh. Rao Purandar Singh was married to Risaldar Pundir Rajputs of Akraabad Aligarh. Rao Ramchandra Singh's son Thall Bhagwan Singh had three sons Khargjit Singh, Chhatrapal Singh and Ompal Singh. Shri Chhatrapal Singh was the first to get the title of M.A. in this dynasty. Khargjit Singh's Bhole Singh, Anil Kumar Singh and Sunil Kumar Singh were born. Chhatrapal Singh had two sons, Raghunandan Singh and Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh. Ompal Singh had two Yashpal Singh and Rajkumar Singh.

Rao Baldev Singh, who had protected two English memes, had a special reputation during the Anglo period. He had two sons, Rao Bhup Singh, Kunwar Zandu Singh. Kunwar Seoraj Singh, son of Rao Bhup Singh, was married to a princess of the famous Gaur family of Vankota. Rao Baldev Singh's second son, Jhandu Singh had three sons Devi Singh, Saheb Singh and Chuttu Singh. Devi Singh had one son, Babu Singh and Chuttu Singh had Raghuveer Singh. Raghuveer Singh has four sons, three Hari Singh, Virendra Singh and Brijendra Singh at present.

Gudni, Dughauni, Bairamai Sirtol, Barnaumi, Saraha, Baghaulti, Titauli, Barauliya, Rajpur, Alampur, Milaulia, Mithmai, Kot etc. all of thirty villages near Bhanpur princely state belonged to the zamindari. They had to pay Rs. 8600/- as revenue.

A priestly family of Upadhyaya Brahmins also lived with the royal family of Bhanpur. There has been in this priestly family, one of the best Hindi Sanskrit poet Pragma Chakshu Pt. Madhusudan Das of Ritikal. He presented a succinct translation of Kalidas's "Meghdoot" in Brij language, the only handwritten copy of which I have received by the grace of Pt. Balendu Upadhyay.

Twenty-seven villages near Sahaswan also belong to Tappa Bais Rajputs of Antar. Bais of Bhois village have been famous in this area for their bravery. In the year 1857, Thal Kalyan Singh was the big landowner here. His sister, Raja Bahadur Singh of Ujhani, was married and had two very brave sons, Gulab Singh and Laxman Singh.

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