

8. Defeat of Internal Enemies

By Use of Force : The Mavlas of the twelve Mavals gathered round Shivaji, ready to do his bidding. They lived for Swaraj and were willing to die for it. They were simple Maratha folk. They loved Shivaji more than their life. But some people were jealous of Shivaji's achievements. He had to bring such people to book.

Khandoji and Baji Ghorpade were two Sardars in the service of Adilshah. The Shah incited them against Shivaji. They created a lot of trouble in the Kondana district but Shivaji was more than a match for them. He defeated and drove them out.

Bajaji Naik Nimbalkar of Phaltan was Shivaji's own brother-in-law. But Shivaji Maharaj had to fight many battles against him. However, later on, members of this family stood by Shivaji Maharaj.

Sambhaji Mohite of Supe, a near relative of Shivaji, also started plotting against Shivaji. Shivaji arrested him at Supe and banished him to Karnatak. With Shivaji, duty came first and relatives afterwards.

Chandrarao Morey of Javali : The greatness of Shivaji's achievements was recognised and applauded everywhere. He captivated the heart of his people. Some people did not like this. They looked upon Shivaji as a mole in the eye. The Morey

of Javali was one such person. Morey was the Jagirdar of Javali. This Jagir which extended from Raigad to Koyna Valley, along with the title 'Chandrarao', was conferred upon him by Adilshah. Javali was covered with such a thick forest that even during broad daylight, the sun's rays hardly penetrated it. It was full of wild life. Tigers, wolves and bears roamed freely in the Javali forest. Morey's Javali was thus like a tiger's hideout. No one, therefore, crossed Morey's path. Only Shivaji had the courage to do so.

Daulatrao Morey died in 1645. There was fight for the succession among his descendants. Shivaji backed Yeshwantrao Morey who, with Shivaji's help, ascended the 'gadi' as 'Chandrarao'. In return for Shivaji's help, Yeshwantrao promised to help Shivaji in his struggle and also pay him an annual tribute. But he forgot all this once he succeeded to the 'gadi'. He became impertinent and troublesome. He started attacking Shivaji's territory and harassing the people. Shivaji realised that unless Morey was punished, he would remain a constant danger to Swaraj.

'Rebel and you will die' : Shivaji first sent a stiff note to Yeshwantrao Morey, "You call yourself the Raja. But I am the Raja of this territory. This Kingdom is Lord Shiva's gift to me. So do not call yourself the Raja."

In a very rude reply Yeshwantrao said, “You are a Raja of only yesterday. Who gave you this Kingdom ? If you come to Javali, you will be trapped. By the grace of God, I have received from Adilshah the title of ‘Raja’. He has also in his graciousness given me a throne and the panoply of a Raja. If you start any trouble here, you will be badly hurt.”

Shivaji replied, “Give up Javali and your pretensions to Kingship. Come before your master with folded hands and accept his service. You will refuse to do so at the risk of your life.”

The conquest of Javali was a difficult operation. It was covered with thick forest and protected by the impregnable Rairi fort. Morey also

had numerous followers. Shivaji after making thorough preparations, attacked Javali. Yeshwantrao held out for about a month but suffered very heavy losses. He then escaped to Rairi along with his family. Shivaji conquered Javali and then marched on Rairi. He laid siege to Fort Rairi. Yeshwantrao fought desperately for three months but he had to give up.

Fort Raigad : The conquest of Javali was a very important landmark. This doubled the boundaries of Swaraj under Shivaji. Yeshwantrao’s army, too, joined the forces of Shivaji. The strong Rairi fort became a part of Swaraj. Shivaji was highly pleased to have this fort under his control. He changed its name to ‘Raigad’. Later on, he built a new fort on the Bhorpya hill nearby. It was named ‘Pratapgad’.



Fort Raigad

1. Find out the wrong pair.

- (a) Phaltan – Nimbalkar
- (b) Javali – Morey
- (c) Supe – Jadhav

2. Write the answer in one sentence.

- (a) What title was conferred by Adilshah upon the Moreys of Javali ?
- (b) Why was the conquest of Javali a very important landmark ?

3. Write the answers in two or three sentences.

- (a) Why did no one cross Morey's path ?
- (b) What note did Shivaji send to Yeshwantrao Morey ?

Activity

- 1. Collect pictures of Raigad.
- 2. Prepare a model of Raigad with the help of your friends, in your Diwali vacation.

