

Ebrahim Shirazi's account of the Khorasanee Family

My source of information is Mirza Abdul Khaleq Dehdushty, who was born circa 1875, and was the younger brother of Mirza Abdul Karim Dehdushty (father of Mirza Mohd Ali Dehdushty of Lahore.)

M.A.K Dehdushty was born in Moulmein Burma. His father was Mohd Reza Dehdushty and his mother was Shaikatunissa daughter of Haji Yacoob Ali Kabuli. M.R. Dehdushty returned to Karbala Iraq. Both mothers grew up in Karbala and Shaikatunissa died there and was buried in Najaf around 1885 when Thibau King of Burma was dethroned by the British occupation of upper Burma. M.M.Ali Dehdushty also grew up in Iraq. The family was educated and very literate they spoke Persian, Arabic and Burmese. They had contacts with the 'marja' Mirza Hasan-e-Shirazi of Tabasco fame known as Mirza e Shirazi and his brother Mirza Asadulla Shirazi who practiced 'Hakeemee' after receiving instruction in a dream from Ameerul Mohmineen (A.S) to do so. Miraculous cures were performed by him with simple herbal medicines. A patient of his was M.A.Karim Dehdushty who wanted to join classes of Mirza e Shirazi whose headquarters were in Samara. Mirza e Shirazi advised him to go into trading and gave him a gift of 50 dinars (gold). He started trading with this money and after success in business in Burma died in Karachi over the age of eighty, a fairly rich man.

Mirza Abdul Khaleq Dehdushty was married to Habiba Begum Shirazi. They had no children. He came back to Burma as a young man accompanied by Hossain Kabuli (father of Hadi, Nizam). M.A.K.Dehdushty lived with his cousin, Haji Mohd Hadi Kabuli, for a while and started a business in Taungyi, Shan States, Burma. His business correspondents-- buying agent in Rangoon was Mohd Backer Khorasanee. They got along very well and this continued with his son Hasan Ali. In Lucknow they went for long walks and returned with one naan each. In Calcutta Hasan Ali would walk for three miles to visit M.A.K Dehdushty.

Earlier in Rangoon, on the insistence of his wife for jewelry to attend wedding, MAK Dehdushty would go to Mohd Backer Khorasanee to borrow jewellery. This happened more than once and on one occasion MAK Dehdushty waiting in the drawing room heard ladies voices and then a loud 'payamai' from Mohd. Backer who brought out the jewellery on loan. After that MAK Dehdushty had to buy his wife some jewellery to prevent further embarrassment to his friend Backer Khorasanee who had 2 wives and 2 daughters- in -law who also needed the jewellery.

The Indian political movement at that time resulted in the boycott of British goods. This also affected the Burmese economy. Up until that time those who wore shoes in Burma wore imported British shoes from the U.K. such as 'John White' and 'Saxonne'. After the boycott there were huge imports of Indian made mass- produced shoes, which were much cheaper than the U.K imports. This had a huge affect on the retail shoe business of Mohd Backer whose up market shop was situated on Sule Pagoda Road a very good area. To add to the problems of the decline in sales the owner of the building in which the shop was situated insisted on an increase in rent from Rupees 800 to Rs 2000. This shop was vacated and smaller shops in less expensive areas were rented but this didn't improve the financial situation. In 1922, Backer Khorasanee passed away and his son Hasan Ali Khorasanee carried on as best he could with the help of his younger brother Hashim Khorasanee but most of the burden fell on Hasan Ali. The situation became increasingly difficult and Reza Afshar the third son of Hasan Ali took employment in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in Abadan, Iran. Following this, Hasan Ali his wife Bibi, (Fatima) Shireen (Emehjoon) (Hasan Ali's only daughter) and Banoo, Shireen's only child all emigrated to Abadan along with Sakina who had been married by proxy to Reza Afshar. Those brothers who lived and worked in Iran had to change their family surname of Khorasanee to other Iranian names. They returned years later at the onset of the 2nd World War.

All the remaining sons of Hasan Ali continued to live in Rangoon and were looked after by 'Maan Dadi' short for Mandalay Dadi and their uncle Hashim and his wife 'Budima' (a dukhtar amoo) cousin of Uncle Ghulam Hossain Sherazee (Mohd Hasan's and Tahira's father).