

# VIJAYANAGARA – PORTUGUESE RELATIONS: A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract**—Portuguese arrived in India for the first time when Vasco-da-Gama found the sea-way to India and arrived in Calicut in May of 1498 AD. It was a momentous occasion for the history of the country. After Vasco-du-Gama successfully found the route to India, he sent regular fleets to India to capture the spice trade of India and to explore the possibility of setting up factories in the coastal cities.

They were fundamentally maritime, yet they clashed with the local Indian kings while carrying out their maritime agenda. Da Gama's invasion of the Indian Sea was motivated more by politics than navigation. The Portuguese king believed that the oceans belonged to him. The Calicut Samori, also known as the Zamorin, welcomed him as he landed. However, Vasco da Gama was compelled to depart Calicut because of a miscommunication between the Samori and the Zamorin.

After thereafter, the Zamorins' relationship with the Portuguese deteriorated. This resulted from the Malabar's Muslim merchants endorsing the Zamorin's authority. The Zamorin were urged to treat Vasco-de-Gama badly by the Muslim merchants. The Moors dominated the commerce along India's western coast in the fourteenth and fifteenth century. The Portuguese arrival, who were antagonistic towards the Moors, made the Moors feel threatened.

Vase da Gama anchored in the islands of Anjediva between September 24 and October 5, 1498, marking the first interaction between the Portuguese and the Vijayanagara subjects on the Western coast. Here, he met Vijayanagar's (on the Kanara coast) principal naval officer, Thimmaiah. He was besieged and had to flee after learning that Thimmaiah was a pirate.

The Portuguese first became aware of the Vijayanagar Empire during the Cabral expedition in 1499 AD. In his logbook, the Cabral's pilot noted facts about the Hindu kingdom. The majority of the material was on the empire's social and cultural facets. The Portuguese entrepreneurs' interest and enthusiasm to learn about and trade with this wealthy and enigmatic region were fuelled by the information's instructive value.

**Index Terms**—Vasco-da-Gama, maritime, Zamorin, Moors, Kanara coast, Cabral, trade, Calicut.

## I. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the study is to study the relations between the Vijayanagara Rulers with the Portuguese. To study how the Vijayanagara rulers used the Portuguese technology to develop their kingdom, especially in the field of Army, development of irrigation, etc

- 1 To examine the historical context of the Vijayanagara-Portuguese relations: This objective involves understanding the political, economic, and social factors that led to the interactions between the Vijayanagara kingdom and the Portuguese.
- 2 To analyze the diplomatic relations between the Vijayanagara kings and the Portuguese: This objective involves studying the treaties, agreements, and correspondence between the two parties, highlighting the key issues, conflicts, and areas of cooperation.
- 3 To investigate the impact of Portuguese trade and commerce on the Vijayanagara kingdom: This objective involves examining the effects of Portuguese trade on the Vijayanagara economy, including the exchange of goods, the role of middlemen, and the impact on local industries.
- 4 To assess the cultural exchange between the Vijayanagara kingdom and the Portuguese: This objective involves exploring the exchange of ideas, customs, and practices between the two cultures, including the influence of Portuguese culture on the Vijayanagara kingdom.
- 5 To evaluate the role of the Vijayanagara-Portuguese relations in shaping the kingdom's foreign policy: This objective involves analyzing how the interactions with the Portuguese influenced the Vijayanagara kingdom's

relationships with other neighbouring kingdoms and empires.

These objectives provide a framework for exploring the complex and multifaceted relations between the Vijayanagara kings and the Portuguese.

Methodology:

For this study I used the secondary data from the well-known books, articles, inscriptions and also website is selected for this study.

Outcomes:

- 1 Deeper understanding of the Vijayanagara-Portuguese relations: The study can provide a comprehensive understanding of the interactions between the Vijayanagara kingdom and the Portuguese, highlighting the key events, figures, and factors that shaped their relationship.
- 2 Re-evaluation of the Vijayanagara kingdom's foreign policy: The research can lead to a re-evaluation of the Vijayanagara kingdom's foreign policy, highlighting the strategies, successes, and failures of their interactions with the Portuguese.
- 3 New insights into the decline of the Vijayanagara kingdom: The study can provide new insights into the decline of the Vijayanagara kingdom, highlighting the role of the Portuguese and other external factors in the kingdom's downfall.
- 4 Contribution to historical scholarship: The study can make a significant contribution to historical scholarship, providing new insights and perspectives on the Vijayanagara-Portuguese relations.

## II. INTRODUCTION:

Europeans have been looking for an alternate route to India ever before the Turks took Constantinople in 1453 AD. Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea routes to India and his arrival at Calicut in 1498 AD marked a turning point in Indian history and the first Portuguese arrival in India. Following his discovery of the passage, Vasco da Gama dispatched regular ships to India in order to seize control of the country's spice trade and investigate the possibility of establishing factories in coastal cities. Although their primary focus was in marine trade, they encountered opposition from the local Indian kings while pursuing their maritime agenda. The Portuguese King's policies, who saw the

water as their property, made da Gama's landing in the Indian water significant rather than its navigability.

## III. THE RELATION BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND ZAMORIN:

The Samori, or Zamorin, of Calicut greeted Vasco-de-Gama upon his arrival. But he was forced to depart Calicut because of miscommunications between the two parties. The Portuguese and Zamorin relationship became extremely antagonistic after it. The reason for this is because Muslim traders from Malabar backed Zamorin's authority. One Zamorin was subjected to mistreatment by the Muslim merchants.

From the fourteenth to the fifteenth century, the Moors dominated commerce along India's western coast. The Portuguese were antagonistic to them, and they felt threatened. Pedro Alvares Cabral, the zamorin, dispatched the Portuguese to India in 1499. Two dozen Portuguese were killed in riots that erupted in Calicut. Other kings were consulted by the Portuguese. The Portuguese were welcomed by the Hindu kings of Cannanore, Cochin, and were permitted to build industries there.

## IV. PORTUGUESE STARTED RELATIONS WITH VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE:

When Vase da Gama was visiting the islands of Anjediva from September to October in 1498, the Portuguese made their first contact with the Vijayanagar kings on the western coast. At the Kanara coast of Vijayanagar, he encountered Thimmaiah, the head naval officer. He had Thimmaiah blast him and drive him away when he was informed, he was a pirate when he questioned him about why he was there. The Portuguese first became aware of the Vijayanagar Empire on this voyage. In his notebook, Cabral's pilot mostly discussed the social and cultural facets of the Hindu kingdom. The Portuguese were very intrigued by this knowledge and wanted to learn more about and trade with this rich and enigmatic region.

After Cabral departed, Joao de Nova reached India in 1501 AD. The port of Bhatkal, which was then a part of the Vijayanagara kingdom, was where he sailed. The Portuguese were allowed to deal with the native tradesmen, according to the Bhatkal chieftain. However, the Portuguese traders were robbed one day. Although the money was found, the Portuguese

refused to go until the offenders were apprehended and dealt with. They thus issued a message threatening to turn over the local ships if the chief failed to apprehend and turn over the criminals. Joao ordered the guilty to have their hands severed and then hanged them once the chief obliged.

#### V. PORTUGAL'S NAVAL SUPREMACY:

The Portuguese haughtiness towards the monarchs of Honavar (Bhatkal) and Honavar was exposed during Vasco's second expedition in 1502 AD. In the Honavar ports, he set fire to the ships.

Honavar leader called for peace. Vasco said "the King of Portugal is the lord of the arid seas, therefore all ports where there is navigation should obey the King of Portugal, paying tribute to his people, that by paying tribute alone the ports are free and safe in trade and commerce, that the ports do not trade in pepper, do not admit Turks, and do not permit ships from Calicut, and finally that he will burn the ships and the ports then and there, and every year thereafter, making trade and commerce there impossible if the chief does not accept his terms."<sup>2</sup>

In addition to giving the Portuguese crew 1000 bags of rice annually and 500 bags of superior rice each captain, the King approved of this. He said that as he was only Vijayanagar's vassal, he was unable to make any further tribute payments in gold or silver.

Why was the vassal state of Vijayanagar so obedient to the Portuguese? The vassals were fully aware of the Portuguese navy's strength, which is one of the causes. At the smallest pretext, the Portuguese pillaged the villages and set fire to the ships. Another explanation is that Vijayanagar's influence over India's west coast had been waning since the Vijayanagar-Virupaksha-Raya period.

The leaders of "Gersoppa," "Honavar," "Bhatkal," and "Barakur," who were Vijayanagar's vassals, were essentially independent. They owed the emperor nothing but the annual tribute. In actuality, Vijayanagar's sovereignty was established by their actions towards the Portuguese and the way they submitted to the harsh rules they enforced. The Vijayanagar monarch must have been aware of this truth, although he could have overlooked it at the time. The third explanation is that around the start of the sixteenth century, Vijayanagar was involved in many conflicts with the Muslims. Under the Adil Shah

(Bijapur), Vijayanagar and Portugal shared an adversary, and during those trying times, Vijayanagar did not desire another strong foe.<sup>3</sup>

#### VI. PORTUGUESE FIRST POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIJAYANAGARA RULERS:

Francisco de Almeida's rule saw the earliest political ties with Vijayanagar. Almeida was named Governor-General of Portuguese Forces and Provinces in India in the year 1505 AD. He was sent to India by the King of Portugal for two reasons. In order to fortify his position against the Muslim rulers of India, he first sought to build positive ties with the Hindu Empire. Even sending an ambassador to Vijayanagara was mandated for Almeida. The construction of a fort on the island of Anjediva in north Kanara was the second justification.

Almeida went on to the second assignment. Initially, the Portuguese established a fort on the island, claiming it as their own. The Portuguese fortress on the island appears to have been approved by the Emperor of Vijayanagar and his subordinate, Gersoppa. Instead, a gift of supplies is sent to Almeida by the Gersoppa chief's ambassador. This bond, though, is short-lived. A quarrel over a few horses leads Almeida to assault Honavar. He destroys a section of the city and murders a lot of the locals. In a new peace deal, the Gersoppa chief grants the Portuguese access to the port of Mirjana. As a vassal of the Portuguese monarch, the chief also consents to pay tribute annually.

#### VII. EMBASSY OF NARASIMHA

Almeida received information that an embassy was waiting for him in Cannanore even before he despatched an ambassador to Vijayanagar. On October 22, 1505 AD, the day following his arrival in Cannanore, he received the emissary. According to Castenhada, "Narasimha thinks that our faith is correct because we defeated the powerful Calicut king and other kings like him." " This is the reason he wants to become a friend of Portugal, who he has offered to assist with a large fleet. He will also allow him to construct forts at his ports, except for Bhatkal (which he has rented) and he will furnish all the necessary materials for erecting those forts. To further strengthen his relationship with the prince, he offers his only

sister to marry the prince's son, of whom he will be very pleased."<sup>4</sup>

After his son Laurenceo lost his life in the battle of Chaul in 1508 AD, Almeida's fortunes changed. Almeida sent Pero Fernandes to Vijayanagar along with Tinoco and priest Louis da Salvador after realising he was not unbeatable. The emperor accepted Tinoco's offer to sign a contract of alliance in exchange for authorisation to erect a fort at Bhatkal, but he never did.

He had established himself securely on the throne of Vijayanagar, which is why he was so cautious in 1508 AD. The kingdom was once again at peace after the internal uprisings were put down. As a result, he was not in a rush to offer companionship. He could have questioned the efficacy of the Portuguese's authority after their defeat at Calicut.

There are two distinct features of the embassies that were traded between 1505 and 1508. First, when replying to each other's friendship requests, both parties merely took the current situation into account. There was no long-term plan in place to counter the opposing side. Vijayanagar and Portuguese may have chosen not to commit to a long-term partnership since they were still assessing each other's advantages and disadvantages. Second, Vijayanagar offered any alternative location, however the Portuguese insisted on establishing a factory in the port of Bhatkal. The kingdom of Bhatkal is extremely wealthy and contributes significantly to the centre's earnings. Only the Portuguese-ruled Muslim ports of Goa and Calicut were as significant as it as a trade port. As a result, both sides desired this vital port.

Despite without entering into a legally binding deal with the Portuguese, Narasimha was covertly supporting them. The Portuguese Viceroy, Almeida, was close with the top Vijayanagar navy officer on the Kanara coast, and the two would correspond. Professor Sastry claims that one such letter, dated November 9, 1508, describes how the Vijayanagar officer gathered information and sent it to the Portuguese viceroy. The two correspondents then conducted business dealings in goods like cloves, camphor, and black wood, and the Vijayanagar admiral even declared that he was prepared to comply with Almeida's requests.

#### VIII. EMBASSY OF FRIAR LUIS 1510 AD:

The arrival of Luis da Salvador, a Franciscan monk, as Portugal's envoy to Vijayanagar's court in January 1510 marked the start of the next phase in the two countries' relationship. The Franciscan de Albuquerque took over as viceroy on Sunday, November 5, 1509 AD. His rule was founded on the values he upheld and the laws he put into place. His objectives were to establish a total monopoly on the Indian market, obstruct the trade routes being built by Egypt and Venice, and guarantee that Portugal's marine dominance would not be challenged. This was accomplished by building a series of readily defendable strongholds from the Persian Gulf to the Straits of Malacca, including Ormuz, Goa, Chennai, and Quilon.

Albuquerque struck Calicut right away, carrying with his intentions. He was unable to defeat the Calicut Zamorin, though. He came to know of the plan between zamorin and Yusuf Adil khan of Bijapur to put an end to the growing power of the Portuguese. Albuquerque attacked Calicut but was defeated by zamorin's army. A few Portuguese were killed and he himself was injured on his shoulder. This was a sudden blow to his plans. He was forced to look for allies to fight zamorin, and Muslim powers supporting Calicut. "Fr. Louis, embassy to Vijayanagar in Jan 1510AD, within a few months of Krishna Raya's accession was thus the direct offshoot of Albuquerque's inability to reduce Calicut."<sup>5</sup> Albuquerque nominated Fr. Luis as envoy to Vijayanagar, and he was knowledgeable about Vijayanagar issues. He got along well with Vira Narsimha, the precursor of Krishna Raya. He was indeed a participant in the 1505 AD Cannanore Embassy. Albuquerque made many requests and gave Fr. Luis instructions before sending him to the Vijayanagar court. Kindly let him know that the King of Portugal has ordered me to respect and stand by all the pagan rulers in his nation and Malabar, and that I am not allowed to seize their ships or merchandise. Alongside him, I battle the Moors all the time, and he orders me to destroy them.

Therefore, my lord, I hope that he would help me anytime I need men, cities, ports, and food supplies for his kingdom, and I desire to help him whenever he needs his fleet and armies. Furthermore, you will inform him that the ships travelling to his ports are secure in the Indian waters and would be respected by the Portuguese king's fleets and forts. Inform him that, on behalf of the King, my lord, I wish to apprehend the

Zamorin and transfer him to Portugal. If he (the Vijayanagar monarch) leads his army towards the Calicut highlands, where the camorin constantly flees from the sea, this task won't be difficult. Now, as he enters the mountain passes, I will lead a sizable navy along the coast and demolish all of his villages and ports so that Camorin cannot evacuate them all at once and we can always catch him. After that, we will expel the Moors from Calicut; they will provide him with all the money he requires to wage war, and his ports will be shut down, destroying his commerce. Then I will be ready to act against the Deccan king and his horse trade will end. This is very important because with the horses brought into his kingdom, he fights against the king of Narendra Varas.

Thus, it is evident that Albuquerque's terms were highly alluring. However, the plans were not well received by Krishna Raya. Rather, he responded to Friar Luiz in a broad way, leaving the offer open for use later. The way that Krishna deva Raya treated the Portuguese has been questioned by historians. The terrains said that the Raya had misjudged the Portuguese. "Krishna Deva Raya did not want to war against them, nor did he accept their promises to help destroy his Indian enemies."

#### IX. CONQUEST OF GOA BY THE PORTUGUESE:

Since Goa was placed under Portuguese rule in 1510 AD, it is a pivotal year in Indian history. Prior to its loss to Virupaksha Raya in 1472 AD, Goa had been ruled by Vijayanagara rulers. The Adil Shahis had taken control of Goa by 1510 AD. Albuquerque was able to fulfil the Portuguese's long-standing interest in Goa, which dates back to their early days in India.

Gaining total control over their exterior commerce in India was the Portuguese principal objective. They erected well defended colonies on Indian land in addition to controlling the sea. This meant that the areas they controlled would be absorbed into their sphere of influence, even if it did not imply that they possessed an empire spanning the whole Indian continent.

He discovered a location in Goa that was ideal for serving as an empire's capital. Although history has demonstrated that Portugal was never intended to develop into a major Eastern empire, it did have a great port that was appropriate for his ships and a key location that allowed for expansion when the time

came. Since Goa was then a Muhammadan property, Albuquerque picked it as a symbol of statesmanship; taking it would not offend any Hindu allies, but rather boost Portugal's standing with the Hindu powers.<sup>6</sup>

The Portuguese were already learning about Goa's strategic location and commercial significance before 1510 AD. Vasco-da-Gama arrested a Jew working for the Muslim ruler of Goa in 1498. After being transported to Portugal, he became a Christian. Gaspar-da-Gama was his name. He must have given the Portuguese important intelligence about Goa, no doubt.

Although Thimmaiah was partly driven by personal interest, it is impossible to deny his contribution to Vijayanagar's fleet in the conquest of the state of Goa. He was a prominent officer in Vijayanagar's navy, therefore although being called a "pirate" or "of low class," he was neither. "Gersoppa" was the name of the princess he married. Most likely, he was a Jain in the traditional meaning of the word. According to one historian, Dr. B. S. Sastry, "Goa was rapidly becoming an attractive centre of trade for merchants." He certainly robs ships on the west coast of India. The kings of Adil Shah, known as the "Bijapur's," controlled both of Vijayanagar's major ports, Goa and Honavar. They assaulted and pillaged the ships that "persisted in sailing to Goa." It is probable that Thimmaiah divided the plunder among the emperor in 358, keeping some for himself and another for King Gersoppa of Vijayanagar. Vijayanagar ruled over Gersoppa, which offered Thimmaiah's fleet port privileges. His monarch instructed Albuquerque to go on the struggle against the Muslims. In order to face the Egyptian sultan's navy, he set off for the Red Sea in 1510 AD. Timmoja approached him as he was at Anjediva getting his fleet ready and said, "What are you getting ready for?" When he explained the situation, Timmoja advised him against fighting the Turks all the way to the Red Sea because they were so near to the port of Goa. He informed the Viceroy that one of the ships that had managed to escape Almeida's defeat had visited Goa and been greeted by the ruler of Bijapur. In order to battle the Portuguese, the Turkish commander wrote to his sultan to request additional ships and men. In order to force Portuguese ships out of the Arabian Sea, a naval station was to be established in Goa. Albuquerque was also informed by Thimmaiah that Adil Shah, the Goan king, had passed away and that his successor was rather young. The

moment was right for the Portuguese to take Goa because of the feuds between the nobility and the inadequacy of the Goan garrison to defend the island. The first thing that springs to mind is why he provided Albuquerque with this knowledge. Did he act independently or did the Emperor of Vijayanagar give him orders? This is for a good purpose. In the event that he was unable to seize power, Vijayanagar always hoped to wrest the state of Goa from the Adil Shah and give it to Portugal. India did not provide the quality horses that Vijayanagar required. They had to be imported from Arabia, Persia, and other places.

The greatest thing Vijayanagar could do when he was unable to wrest Goa away from Adil Shah was to assist the Portuguese, who likewise intended to capture it for themselves. However, Thimmaiah's actions helped to hasten the conquest's timeline. Though he had a point of contention, Thimmaiah provided information on Goa's susceptibility to the Portuguese. He was dispossessed of an ancestral property in Goa, Chidambaram, by his brother.

Thimmaiah aspired to become the state's governor following the Portuguese takeover of Goa. The state would come under the control of Vijaya Nagar after it overthrew the Muslim government and appointed Thimmaiah as governor of Goa. Good connections would exist with the Portuguese, and commerce might be formed, particularly in regards to horses, which were highly sought after in Arabia and Persia.

It's possible that Krishna Deva Raya ordered Thimmaiah to send the Portuguese to Goa, or at the absolute least, that he plotted with Thimmaiah. In accordance with this policy, "Thimmaiah intrigued with the discontented Hindus of the place to secure their willing submission. The garrison being in arrears of pay and consequently not very enthusiastic in its defence, even the Mussalman governor consented to play the traitor in return for a bribe." 7. Furthermore, Timmoja promised to support the Portuguese in their assault on Goa by sending a strong land force of his army to fight it. Under the command of Timmoja's brother-in-law, a Muslim captain who had defected to the Honavar after serving as a captain in Adil Shah's army, Timmoja sent 2,000 troops via land.

Thimmaiah captured Cin-tacora Sadashiv Gad's fort on March 1, 1510 AD. The Portuguese stormed and captured the fort of Panaji on March 2, 1510 AD. A delegation of some of the town's powerful citizens, led by Mir Ali and a captain from Goa, arrived in

Albuquerque on March 3, 1510, with the promise to cede the area and submit to the King of Portugal's authority. Therefore, Goa was easily captured, just as Thimmaiah had foretold. Albuquerque's capture of Goa thrilled Vijayanagar and the Portuguese. Having lost the state of Goa to the Portuguese, Adil Shah was very unhappy, especially with Timmoja's assistance. In the hopes that they would not follow the Raja's instructions, he promptly dispatched an agent to Vijayanagar to file a complaint against Timmoja and others." Thimmaiah was in fact an eyesore to the Adil Shah since it was because of the former that the Portuguese had captured Goa. The Adil Shah told Albuquerque through envoys that he had no complaint against the Portuguese because it was Thimmaiah and the Hindus of Goa who had surrendered it to them".<sup>8</sup> He was aware of Krishna Raya's response. The affair was not denied by Krishna Raya. Actually, Krishna Raya accepted responsibility for Timmoja's ordeal. Krishna Raya went so far as to say that he was glad Goa was under Portuguese control. Adil Sha was cautioned by Krishna Raya that attempting to retake Goa would be supporting the Portuguese in their efforts to defend it. Following the conquest, Albuquerque erected the first Portuguese factory on the Kanara coast as part of a peace deal among the Portuguese and the Goan vassals, Gersoppa and Bhatkal.

To persuade Albuquerque to provide the horses, the Vijayanagara ruler Krishna deva Raya dispatched an embassy and a message. Albuquerque despatched a certain Gaspar Chanoca to the Vijayanagar court. He was in charge of transporting the horses to the palace of the Hindu ruler.

The aforementioned event demonstrates both Albuquerque's initial response to the request and Krishna deva Raya's willingness to get horses from him following the conquest of Goa.

#### X. LOSS OF GOA:

Bijapur army broke through the fortifications and took Goa with ease in spite of all these precautions. Albuquerque and his soldiers were expelled from Goa, along with "Thimmaiah," the rebel commander. On May 17, 1510 AD, they were compelled to shelter in his fleet in front of Panaji 45 Castle, on the banks of the Mondovi River. Albuquerque vowed that he would not stop until the city was back in his control. Goa was

becoming a source of trouble for the Portuguese. The Adil Shah "convinced" Albuquerque to "accept" any other location and "let Goa go" in return for harmony and cordial ties with the Muslims. These bids were turned down by Albuquerque.

#### XI. RECONQUEST OF GOA:

He waited for the right moment to retake Goa, with Thimmaiah and Gersoppa theoretically still on his side. Due to poor weather, Albuquerque spent three months trapped at sea without supplies or food. He reached Anjediva on August 17. He requested Gersoppa assistance in regaining Goa. Albuquerque's men attended the wedding in Honavar, where the chief's daughter wed Thimmaiah, thus they were already wedded. In order to retake the state from Adil Shah, he was in route to Goa. To accompany Albuquerque, Gersoppa, the Goan ruler, pledged to send 4,000 troops by land along with three ships and one of his captains, Madhav Rao. Additionally, he pledged to arrive by land with 6,000 soldiers. In order to assist Thimmaiah, who planned to approach from the western side, Albuquerque crossed the Mondovi River and sent his fleet of six ships to ancient Goa.

Albuquerque and his commanders waited for three days, but Thimmaiah never arrived. After concluding that Adil Shahis had paid Thimmaiah and the chief of Gersoppa, Albuquerque went on to seize Goa on his own.

The city of Goa was assaulted and taken by him on November 25, 1510 AD. As we previously discussed, following the initial conquest of Goa with Thimmaiah's assistance, Krishna deva Raya sent a letter to Albuquerque. But it wasn't until Adil Shah's victorious expulsion of the Portuguese in 1510 AD that South Indian politics took a different turn. He believed that it would be hard for the Portuguese to retake the state of Goa from Adil Shah, and he was unsure whether they could. According to Krishna Deva Raya, Thimmaiah and the ruler of Gersoppa are backing the wrong house. If the Portuguese are unable to retake Goa, Adil Shah would be furious with Vijayanagara as he will expose the assistance he has provided to the Portuguese. Krishna Raya was preparing to invade the adjacent significant town of Belgaum in order to oppose the Portuguese presence there, presuming that Portuguese Goa was a possibility.

Fr. Luiz claims that Belgaum's major Hindu population rebelled, expelled the Moors from the city, and proclaimed themselves to be under the control of King Vijayanagar after discovering that Goa had been taken and reinforced by the Portuguese.

This Hindu uprising must have involved Thimmaiah, who was no stranger to intrigues. This letter makes it apparent that Timmoja's true goal was to secure Goa for Vijayanagar, which explains why his arrival in Goa was delayed. In the wings, Timmoja watched to see what would happen. He would concentrate on Belgaum to assist it in defecting to Vijayanagar's side when it was clear that the Portuguese had taken Goa. Albuquerque received the information extremely late through letters from Fr. Luiz. Goa had already been fully captured at this point. Timmoja was removed from his position as captain of Goa after five months of his appointment, most likely due in part to this letter.<sup>9</sup>

Albuquerque refused to arrange an exclusive horse sale with Vijayanagar's envoys because he was so incensed with his vassals. Rather, he would await the Raya's answer to the questions he had sent him through Fr. Luiz.

#### XII. MURDER OF FR. LUIS:

A Turk assassinated Frey Luiz prior to the envoys even reaching Vijayanagara. According to Albuquerque's letter to his lord, Frey Luiz was murdered by a Turk at Biznagar. Important factors are the assassin's identity and the time of the incident. Ramachandraiyya claims that since he was aware of Krishna Deva Raya's covert diplomacy, "Fr. Luiz" started to jeopardise Vijayanagar's interests both domestically and internationally. For instance, he was aware that Krishna Raya's true objective was to use the "Gersoppa chieftain" and the "Thimmaiah" to gain control of Goa for his personal gain following the Portuguese expulsion in May of 1510 AD. In order to shift the blame on the 'Adil Shahis', as it turned out, Krishna Raya made a smart manoeuvre by having a Turk carry out the murder. Fr. Luis is credited for effectively exposing Vijayanagar's diplomacy, but his efforts ultimately led to his demise.

#### XIII. THE EMBASSY OF RADA LINGAM CHETTI 1514 AD:

After the explorer Albuquerque took Goa, the Portuguese gained an unprecedented level of fame. Albuquerque's acquisition of Goa placed Portugal in direct opposition to the Bahmani kingdoms and Vijayanagara, making it one of India's lesser powers.<sup>10</sup> Albuquerque dispatched a large number of Indian and foreign envoys to his court in Goa. Ormuz. Thailand. Pegu. Gujarat. All of Abyssinia had representatives in Goa. This demonstrates the Portuguese's standing among the Eastern powers following their capture of Goa.

Not to be outdone, in November of 1514 AD, Krishna Deva Raya again dispatched an ambassador to Goa. Together with "the presents of his sovereign and the credentials letters of Krishna Raya," the ambassador was dispatched to the Viceroy by the governor of Barcelor, "who was the main noble of his court" and "a great favourite of his." The ambassador's journey was intended to secure a "exclusive supply of horses" from Vijayanagar and enquire about any potential assistance the Portuguese may provide him in his fight against Adil Shah. Even though Krishna Raya (Narasinga) was aware of the disagreements between him and the Sultan (Bijapur), he chose to go to war with him because he still wished to keep his friendship with the King of Portugal. Because of the coordinated action of the war, he wanted to make certain that the Viceroy would stick to his original goal, so "we will destroy him with little effort." Albuquerque took a while to respond.

Krishna Raya dispatched a new message to Radalingam Chetty in Goa to negotiate the alliance because he was concerned that the Rajputs and the Portuguese were having covert discussions on the supply of horses. In a letter to Vijayanagar, Albuquerque stated that if Raya paid him Rs. 30,000 a year for the supply, he would refuse all of his horses and send his own servant to Goa to retrieve the animals.

Castenhada claims that Krishna Raya also stated that if the King received payment for the Portuguese troops, he would back him in the conflict. According to legend, Krishna Raya granted the Portuguese troops some of the important estates close to Goa in exchange for their assistance. Since the wealthy King of Narasinga did not require these lands and preferred that all horses travelling to Goa go to him rather than Hidalcao, he sent Ruy de Mello, the Goan captain, to notify him that he had forcibly taken the Belgaum

lands from Hidalcao and all of the land up to the sea, which was Tanadaris, yielding more than 500000 gold pagodas that he wished to present to the King of Portugal.

Beyond military affairs, Krishna Deva Raya enjoyed cordial ties with the Portuguese. There is proof that Krishna Deva Rai, with the assistance of Portuguese engineer Joao de la Ponte, constructed a massive tank at Varanasi, his capital. Following the conquest of Goa, Krishna Deva Rai also kept cordial ties with the Portuguese by asking for their help in a number of areas and regularly supplying them with horses for his Rajput cavalry.

#### XIV. RAMA RAYA AND THE PORTUGUESE:

Vijayanagar was governed by a de facto de jure sovereign at the time of Sadasiva Raya's accession to the throne. The "Rama Raya" was a regent who ruled Vijayanagar as the defector king. The Portuguese did not follow the original deal, and they controlled enough of Vijayanagar to enter the heart of the kingdom. Under the Vijayanagara dynasty, the renowned temple of Tirumala Tirupati was to be looted in 1544 AD by the Portuguese governor of Goa.<sup>11</sup> Martin Alfonso de Souza, the governor, assembled a ship and a force of 3,000 soldiers in order to sail around to Santhome, which is close to Madras. He then landed his troops and marched interior to pillage the large temple. Although the governor kept his preparations a secret, Rama Raya somehow learnt about them and assembled an army in Tirupati to defend the temple. According to some accounts, the Portuguese arrived in India brandishing a sword and a crucifix.

When De Souza's term as governor came to an end in 1545 AD, Joao De Castro took control. The Portuguese sought to take advantage of certain recent developments that occurred within the kingdom of Bijapur at this time. Prince Abdullah, the opposing heir to the Bijapur throne, sought safety in Goa, and the Portuguese backed Abdullah's campaign. Assad Khan was an ardent supporter of Abdullah's cause. However, Shah Ibrahim Adil Shah gave the Portuguese Salsette and bards in return for moving the disobedient prince to a far-off location in order to prevent an attack on Bijapur by striking out at them. Regretfully, Abdullah was returned to Goa by the Portuguese, who broke their word. Shah Abdul

therefore insisted that the Portuguese regain control of the districts of Salsette.

De Castro suggests that Nizam Shah, Vijayanagar, and the Portuguese form a tripartite alliance against Bijapur in order to avoid retaliating against Adil Shah. Rama Raya, who was always willing to expand his authority, accepted the proposal right away. On September 19, 1547 AD, a pact was concluded with Vijayanagar. The contents of this contract are intriguing since they provide a wealth of information about the Portuguese people's political and economic ties during this time. The contractual parties are identified as Sada Siva of Bisnaga, the great and strong king of Portugal, his deputy, Dorn Joao de Castro, the captain general and governor of Goa.

A. When asked to help the other with all of his armies against all of India's kings and lords, the Nizam Shah will always exclude the following parties: each side will be the allies of the other's enemies.

B. The governor of Goa will let the King of Vijayanagar to purchase any Arab or Persian horses that arrive on the state's soil, provided that they are properly and promptly notified; no horses will be permitted to be sent to the state of Bijapur.

C. The monarch would force Portuguese factors to buy salt and iron and forbid their shipment into his dominion from any port in Bijapur.

D. The king forbids any Moorish naval ships from docking in his ports; if they do, they will be apprehended and sent to Goa.

The two sides agree to fight a war against Adil Shah and Vijayanagar gets all the territories ceded to him except the lands west of the ghats from Bandra in the north to the Cintacora in the south, which are ceded to the Portuguese King.<sup>12</sup>

Before the two kingdoms went to battle in 1558 AD, Rama Raya enjoyed a cordial relationship with the Portuguese. Rama Raya was advancing on the Portuguese town of St. Thom in 1558 AD. In 1522 AD, St. Thom was established at Mylapore. The city was governed by Vijayanagar. Due to its location on the coast of the Coromandel, the town was founded primarily for commercial purposes. For the Portuguese, it also had religious significance since the relics of St. Thomas were found in the town. Near the town, there were a number of churches devoted to Saint Francis. The Jesuits and Franciscan friars soon came at St. Thom, where they converted the inhabitants by preaching their religion. The rulers of

Vijayanagar were informed of these actions, but they did nothing since they need Portuguese horses.

In contrast, Vijayanagar was ruled by Rama Raya. In addition to the horses, he needs to conduct incessant conflicts, he also needed money when he came to power. So, when a Portuguese fidalgo (a nobleman) offered him two million of golden pagodas (golden coins) from the inhabitants of St. Thome, Rama Raya was enticed. He gathered a large army of about 500,000 men and went to St. Thome.<sup>13</sup> The locals greeted him and offered him priceless presents after seeing the pointlessness and irrationality of opposing such a powerful force. Despite this, the city as a whole searched for wealth and buried gems during Rama Raya. This was of little assistance to him. He ordered the Fidalgo caught and put to death because he was afraid, he had been duped by false claims of wealth.

One hundred thousand pagodas were then chosen as an homage during Rama Raya. It was required that half of this contribution be paid right away. Six months later, the second half was to be administered. Along with the hostages for the other half, he abducted five chief citizens. This instance was only one in a long line of cordial interactions between the Portuguese, who prospered greatly as a result of the Vijayanagar kingdom's fantastic trading prospects. Because of their business dealings with the Vijayanagar, St. Thome and Goa were able to continue to prosper. "The Merchandize that went every year from Goa to Bezenegar were Arabian horses, Velvets, Damaskes and Satins, Armesine of Portugal and Pieces of China, saffron and Scarlett's and from Bezenegar they had in Turki for their commodities, jewels and Pagodas." <sup>14</sup> Of all the above-mentioned commodities, the horse trade was the most lucrative for the Portuguese.

#### XV. BATTLE OF 1565 AD:

There is no written record of the Portuguese's stance on the great battle in 1565 AD. However, based on their general stance towards both the Deccan sultans and the Vijayanagar kings in times of conflict, we can make an estimate of their stance. The Portuguese have always played a game of double game with Vijayanagar, pretending to be friendly towards the Vijayanagar Rayas, but treating their vassals and the local chieftains in general with disdain and contempt. Maybe, they were aware that Vijayanagar's army was in dire need of horses, so they knew that the

Vijayanagar Rajput's would not compromise their own interests by siding with the Portuguese. However, the Portuguese interests are essentially maritime, and trading with Vijayanagar particularly dealing with the horses brought them huge profits.

In the light of the foregoing, it is not unreasonable to believe that the Portuguese were extremely displeased with the sudden development in Deccan that led to the formation of the League against Vijayanagar, as the Portuguese did not support either side in the war, and there is no evidence to suggest that they did so, even indirectly. There is no record of the Portuguese supplying mercenary troops to the Rajas of Bijapur or the Rajas of Raichur during the siege of Krishna Raya, which we do not have now.

Why did Rama Raya not seek help from the Portuguese in his war against the Muslims? We do not know whether the Portuguese refused to help him even when he approached them.

#### XVI. AFTER MATH OF THE BATTLE OF 1565 AD:

It wasn't until 1565 AD, however, that Vijayanagar's situation changed. The city was abandoned by its rulers, and the Deccan Sultans plundered the city at will. 1565 AD was also a turning point in the history of the Portuguese, at least in terms of their commercial activities. It also played a role in determining the future prospects of the Portuguese along the coast of Goa. Goa went through a series of ups and downs during the reign of the 2nd Vijayanagar Dynasty, which was likely due to the fact that its entire commerce relied on Hindu patronage.

Tirumala, the Vijayanagara king, required horses to fight the Deccan after moving his capital to Penukonda. He permitted the merchants to depart with "writes Federiche" without payment since he lacked the funds to purchase the horses. The goal was to loot the coastal regions ruled by the Vijayanagara's before to 1565 AD in order to make up for the lost commerce. After the battle, the kingdom fell into chaos and Vijayanagar control over the western coast became even weaker. Portugal took advantage of this situation. "Their naval power giving them an advantage, they started plundering ships whether Muslim or Hindu, levying tributes, plundering and burning villages on the coasts and capturing whatever forts or ports they

could." <sup>15</sup> The ports so attacked were Barkur, Honavar and Gersoppa (Karwar).

In order to combat the Deccan, Tirumala, the Vijayanagara king who had moved his capital to Penukonda, needed horses. Since he lacked the funds to purchase them from the merchants, he let them to leave with "writes Federici," without paying them. The coastal areas that had been ruled by the Vijayanagara's till 1565 AD were looted by them in an attempt to make up for the loss of commerce.

After the battle, the kingdom fell into chaos, and the Vijayanagar control over the western coast became even weaker. Portuguese exploited this situation.

#### Venkata-II:

While Goa was the Vice-Kingdom of Portuguese India, Venkata-II mostly dealt with the Portuguese in the vicinity of St. Thomas and Pulicat. The success of the Portuguese in India drew the Dutch and English, who also arrived under Venkata II's reign, marking a watershed in Indian history. The Portuguese were at the height of their supremacy in South India during the beginning of Venkata's rule in 1586 AD. In 1601 AD, Venkata despatched his envoys to Goa, renewing the previous alliance with the Portuguese. The embassy's goal was to establish a partnership with Portugal.

Ayres De Saldanha was Portugal's viceroy at the time. The monarch wants to be friendly with the Portuguese, so he sent messengers to the viceroy with two of our fathers, Fr. Simao and Fr. Coutinho. He gave them two rings, which are worth 5,000 pagodas, and a letter saying that he wants to be friends with the Portuguese monarch. This was done to establish a close protective relationship with Portugal, maybe in opposition to Akbar's aspirations, since he was at least suspected of hatching a plan against Venkata at his court.

The friendly ties between the Portuguese and Venkata were also influenced by the Jesuits' presence at the royal. The Jesuits were permitted by the king to construct a temple, erect crosses, and convert the populace. at addition to their existing mission in St. Thomas, the Jesuits also built a mission at Chandragiri during Venkata's rule. The monarch was exceedingly welcoming to the Jesuits, according to all the fathers. After learning how much the Mughals respected the fathers under Akbar from their ambassadors, "Venkata"-II's regard for them grew.

In Vijayanagar, the Jesuits were granted a plot of land next to his palace so they could build a home and

church in Vellore. However, Venkata's relationship with the father-Jesuits started to sour in 1609 AD. Father Coutinho passed away in 1609. He was the best buddy of Venkata. The relationship between the father and son began to deteriorate at this point.

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