

## CHAPTER VII.

### IMMAḌI RĀJA WOḌEYAR, 1637-1638.

Birth, accession and identity—Siege of Arkalgud, c. 1638—  
Immaḍi Raja Woḍeyar's Rule—Religion and domestic life—  
Death, October 8, 1638—Political position of Mysore,  
1638.

**O**N MAY 14, 1637, the thirteenth day after the death of Chāmarāja Woḍeyar, Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar (Rāja Woḍeyar II), the youngest and last son of Rāja Woḍeyar, succeeded to the throne of Mysore.<sup>1</sup> He was born on May 26, 1612, and was in his twenty-fifth year at the time of his accession.<sup>2</sup> He is referred to in literary

Birth, accession  
and identity.

1. See *Mys. Dho. Pūr.* (I. 44; II. 55), referring to *Īsvara, Vaiśākha ba. 30* as the date of Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar's accession. Cf. *Mys. Rāj. Cha.* (22), placing the accession on the very day of Chāmarāja's death; *Rāj. Kath.* (XII. 470), fixing it in December 1633; *Annals* (I. 62-63), according to which Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar had been installed on the throne, by Chāmarāja Woḍeyar, on *Īsvara, Vaiśākha śu. 15* (April 28, 1637, i.e. three days before Chāmarāja's death). Wilks (I. 56) merely dates the accession of "Immaḍee Raj" in 1637. The authority of the earliest Ms. (i.e. *Mys. Dho. Pūr.*) is to be preferred here as the more specific in regard to the date of accession, although it seems not impossible that Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar had been formally desired, a few days before Chāmarāja's death, to succeed the latter.

2. *Ibid.*, I. 33, 44 (compare): *Parīdhāvi, Jyēṣṭha śu. 7*, Tuesday. See also *C. Vam.* (31-32), according to which Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar, the fourth and last son (*kīriyaṅgar*) of Rāja Woḍeyar, was in his boyhood at the time of the latter's death (1617). The *Mys. Dho. Vam.* (ff. 28) merely refers to Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar as the son of Rāja Woḍeyar and uncle of Chāmarāja Woḍeyar; the *Mys. Rāj. Cha.* (22) mentions him as the son of Rāja Woḍeyar by his youngest wife; and the *Rāj. Kath.* (XII. 470), as the son of Rāja Woḍeyar. Cf. Wilks (I. 56), referring to Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar as "the posthumous son of Rāja Woḍeyar," who "ascended the Musnud in his 20th year on the death of his nephew Cham Raj." The *Annals* (I. 49-50, 63) also speaks of Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar as the posthumous son of Rāja Woḍeyar, fixing his birth on December 7, 1617 (*Paingala, Mārgaśira ba. 5*), i.e., about six months after Rāja Woḍeyar's death. In the absence of positive evidence to the contrary, the authority of the earliest available sources (i.e. *Mys. Dho. Pūr.* and *C. Vam.*) is preferred here.

works and inscriptions (17th-18th centuries) as 'Immaḍi-Rājarasa,' 'Immaḍi-Rājoḍeyar,' 'Immaḍi-Rāja' and 'Immaḍi-Rājarāt.'<sup>3</sup>

Daḷavāi Vikrama-Rāya continued in office under Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar. Perhaps the only political event of importance during the reign was the siege of Arkalgūḍ in or about 1638. The siege, it is said, was successfully conducted by Vikrama-Rāya who exacted tribute from Krishnappa Nāyaka, the chief of the place, and returned to Seringapatam with the spoils of war.<sup>4</sup>

Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar appears to have been a promising ruler. His prowess is echoed in literary works and inscriptions.<sup>5</sup> The short period of his rule was remarkable for its popularity and vigour, and for the continued maintenance of the traditions of his predecessors.<sup>6</sup> As a centre of culture, his court was reputed for its magnificence.<sup>7</sup>

Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar, as we find him depicted,<sup>8</sup> was an ardent devotee of Vishṇu, ever engaged in listening to and enjoying the devotional literature of the Vaishṇava faith. He had two queens, Venkaṭājamma of Heggāḍḍēvankōṭe (Kōṭe) and Nanjamma of Maddūr, by whom he is said to have had no issue.<sup>9</sup>

Religion and domestic life.

3. See *C. Vam.*, 32, 35, *C. Vi.*, II, 85-86, referring to Immaḍi-Rāja as 'Irmaḍi-Rāja'; *Kamalā. Māhāt.*, I, 98; *Munivam.*, II, 68; *Rājoḍeyara kiriyānūgarāḍimmaḍi-Rājoḍeyar*; *E.C.*, III (1) TN. 63 (1749), l. 38; IV (2) Yd. 17 (1761), l. 24, etc. See also Tables II and III.

4. *Annals*, I. 63; *Rāj. Kath.*, XII. 470; *Mys. Rāj. Cha.*, 22; cf. *Mys. Dho. Vam.*, ff. 28.

5. *Vide* f.n. 3 *supra*.

6. *C. Vam.*, 35; also *Mys. Dho. Vam.*, ff. 28; *Mys. Rāj. Cha.*, 22-23; *Annals*, I. 63-64.

7. *Mys. Rāj. Cha.* and *Annals*, l.c.

8. *C. Vam.*, l.c.: *Paramapurushana charaṇāravinda-dvandra-sandarśana-śravaṇa-kīrtanādi-bhaktirasa-paripāka-bhēdamam nichchanigegeydu.*

9. *Annals*, I. 63; see also *Mys. Dho. Pār.*, I. 62.

Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar died on October 8, 1638,<sup>10</sup> in his twenty-seventh year, after a reign of nearly an year and a half, his queens, it is said,<sup>11</sup> observing *sati*. His death is said<sup>12</sup> to have been brought about by a poisonous mixture (*visha-chūrṇa*) administered to him—during his indisposition—by the court physician, under the influence of Daḷavāi Vikrama-Rāya. There seems little doubt that the Daḷavāi was led into the perpetration of this treacherous deed, perhaps by motives of usurpation or assertion of independence against his young, and probably too energetic, master.<sup>13</sup>

Though Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar was thus victimised by the Daḷavāi's intrigue in the very prime of his life, it is to his credit that he was able to leave behind him a powerful and compact kingdom—a rich political heritage to the next generation of rulers of Mysore.

Political position  
of Mysore, 1638.

10. *Mys. Dho. Pūr.*, I. 44, 56: *Bahudhānya, Āsvija śu.* 11. See also *Mys. Dho. Vam.*, ff. 29; cf. *Mys. Rāj. Cha.*, 23: *Bahudhānya, Āsvija śu.* 15 (October 12, 1638); *Annals*, I. 64: *Ibid*; *Rāj. Kath.* (XII. 470), placing the death in May 1635!

11. *Annals*, l.c.

12. *Annals*, I. 68; *Rāj. Kath.*, l.c.; *Mys. Dho. Pūr.*, I. 46-47; see also *Wilks*, I. 56. The *Mys. Dho. Vam.* (ff. 28) merely refers to Immaḍi-Rāja Woḍeyar's death as due to Daḷavāi Vikrama-Rāya's treachery (*Daḷavāyi Vikrama-Rāyana kuṣīlōpāyadinda*).

13. See also and compare *Wilks*, I. 57.