

## **Buddhu's Tomb**

On the right side of Grand Trunk (GT) Road near Gulabi Bagh Gateway, opposite the University of Engineering and Technology, there lies a dilapidated tomb known as 'Buddhu ka Maqbara'. It was constructed in 1641 AD. Buddhu was the famous brick manufacturer during the time of Emperor Shahjahan. It has one arched opening on Awa (brick-kiln). Also seen in the background on left is the Tomb. Although located near Buddu's area (brick-kiln); the tomb belongs to the wife of Khan-e-Daoran Nusrat Jang(Latif 1892).

Each side and is surmounted by a low-pitched dome, carried on a high cylindrical drum over an octagonal base. The exterior of the building is panelled and finished with plaster. The dome, carried on squinches, is decorated with enamelled tiles in blue, yellow, white, green and light chocolate colours laid in zigzag pattern.

The site of the Buddhu's Awa (brick-kiln) is also situated nearby and marked by a small pillar. However, the whole area has now turned into the den of vehicles workshops, which carry on their business right in the protected premises, unabated and unchecked.

The tomb had an arched gallery and stood in an enclosed garden with a gateway, of which no sign now remains. The tomb stands on a platform of masonry, the building itself being of quadrangular form, with an arched entrance on each side.

The wife of Khan-e-Dauran Bahadur Nusrat Jan, is buried there. Her husband was an amir (grandee) of the Mughal court. Khan-e-Dauran himself was also buried there on his death in 1643 AD. At his death, he held the rank of command of seven thousand men cavalry with an

equal number of horses. As per the tradition of the time, the tomb is likely to have been set amidst a large garden. Some historians even suggest that in the Buddha's Tomb, the tomb of Faqir Abdul Haqq, a saint who died in 1671 AD has been buried.

During the Sikh rule, the area was used as the summer house of the French General Avitabile, employed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, although no evidence of this has survived. It was a centre of activities during the inter-Sikh wars, when Maharaja Sher Singh and Raja Hira Singh in turn gathered the Khalsa (Sikh) troops here with the intention of laying siege to Lahore.

***Bibliography:***

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