

Saruwala Maqbara/ Tomb of Sharf un Nisa Begum

The tomb of Sharf un Nisa Begum also known as Saru wala Maqbara situated on the way on Begampura Road going east on GT Road and through a locality known as Sharif Park. It is located about 200 meters north of Dai Anga's tomb. The tomb, however, is not directly visible, because of the multi storey buildings and construction that surround the monument. At present there is more of a mess because of the Orange Line has constructed by the government.

The lady of this tomb Sharf-un-Nisa Begam was sister of Nawab Zakariya Khan, the governor of Lahore in Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah Rangeela of Mughal period.

The edifice was built in 1745 A.D. and was used by Sharf-un-Nisa Begam as a meditation chamber during her lifetime. She used wooden ladder for climbing and escaping from the building. After her death, the meditation chamber was converted into her tomb.

The idea behind the edifice is that even the grave of the purdah observing lady should be kept out of view of unrelated men.

Like many other Mughal era monuments, the tomb became victim of the vandalism carried out during the 18th century Sikh rule. It is believed by historians and archeologists that the tower contained treasures, and breaking open the tomb, the holy book and jeweled sword were removed — decorative features are extant only in the upper part of this two-storey structure. Square in plan, the tomb is a solid, tower-like tapering brick structure with a *chajja* near the top of the dome. The chamber is covered by a single dome of a four-sided pyramidal shape. The

drum has a low neck. A band of colour glazed tiles runs around the neck of the dome. It is embellished with the attributes of Allah in superb calligraphy. The burial chamber can only be approached by the use of a moveable ladder. The low pitched four-sided pyramidal dome, over a double drum, is a unique feature of this tomb. The dome is covered with glazed tiles in blue and white colors finished in zig-zag patterns. The projecting *chajja* (eaves), and a pyramidal low roof, similar to one seen in the tomb of Hazrat Mian Mir provides a fitting termination. On account of the tile motifs depicting *cypress* trees, alongside other floral motifs used on the tiles on the exterior walls. These cypresses, four on each side, are intercepted by little blooming flower plants.

خاکِ لاپرراز مزارِ مثلِ آسمان
کس نادانندز مکاش در جہاں

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