

BARADARI NADIRA BEGAM

The story of *Nadira Begam* is quite interesting rather weird and wonderful. A brief extract from "*History of Lahore*", p177 is as under;

Nadira Begum was sister of Dara Shekoh. She had great affection for Hazrat Mian Mir, a Sufi Saint of Lahore, so she was more concerned with Hazrat Mian Mir, preferred to serve him personally. From the age of nine, she was used to make arrangements for the ablution of (preparatory to offer Namaz) Hazrat Mian Mir. When she eleven year of age, Hazrat Mian Mir forbade her to do because she was a young girl. She took this to her heart and died the following night. She was buried there by the order of Hazrat Mia Mir and Dara Shekoh constructed this Baradari here.

But Padsh *Nama Alamgiri at page 87* describes another story;

"In last days of 1069A.H when *Malik Jivan*, a land lord of *Dhandar* invited and arrested Dara Shekoh viciously, *Nadira Begam* who was seriously ill in these days she was also with Dara Shekoh. She died there of dysentery. According to her will Dara Shekoh sent the dead body to Lahore which was buried there in the court yard of Hazrat Mian Mir.

That, Shahjehan had 14 children. Altogether he had six daughters. Hoor un Nisa Begam, Sorayya Bano Begam and Husan Ara Begam died in their childhood, however, Jehan Ara Begam and Roshan Ara Begam survived even after the death of their father. Mumtaz Mahal the beloved wife of Shahjehan died while delivering the 6th princess Gohar Ara Begam Shahjehan has nodaughter by the name of *Nadira Begam*, so she was absolutely not the sister of Dara Shekoh.

Zafar Nama mention in page 146;

Shab'an 1042A.H, Prince Dara Shekoh married the daughter of Sultan Pervaiz (Son of Jahangir)

The Baradari of *Nadira Begam* contains the grave of *Nadira Begam*, the grand Daughter of Jahangir, and niece of Shahjehan. Neither she was *Nadira Begam* whose is mentioned in the history of Lahore, nor had Dara Shekoh constructed the Baradari.

Dara Shekoh and his wife made an attempt to flee to the west, but they were betrayed by *Malik Jiwan*, a Baluch cheiftain, who turned them over to Aurangzeb's army in June, 1659.A.D *Nadira* died few months before prior to the assassination of her husband on August 30, 1659. Dara Shekoh sent the corpse of her wife *Nadira Begam* to Lahore and started this Baradari but remained unfinished due to his assassination in the powerful hands of Aurangzab and his brother Prince Murad. It is corroborated by different books this was finished by Alamgir, therefore, it is quite right that *Nadira Begam's* Baradari, its water tank, causeway and all were constructed by the orders of Emperor Alamgir.

The tomb stands on a raised platform at the center of what used to be a vast water tank. The tank was dismantled during the British period. The Baradari stood initially amidst a huge tank, and was come to by an extension of brick work, upheld by curves, thirty one of which exist right

up till today the east of the primary building. There were fine entryways toward the North and South, and a structure on each side of the tank, evidences of which still exist.

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