

The tomb of Hazrat Cherag Ali Shah

The tomb of Hazrat Shah Cherag is located beside the Awan-e-Auqaf near the Lahore High Court. The real name of this Sufi saint is Syed Abdul Razzaq and was famous as Baba Shah Chirag. Title chirag was given to him by his grandfather, Hazrat Abdul Qadir Sani who was also a Sufi Saint. At the time of his birth, his grandfather said: A Cheragh (lamp) has appeared in our home that will enlighten our family. So he became called Cheragh since the day. He completed his education and spiritual training under the guidance of his father. His ancestors were the residents of Uch, in Bahawalpur. After having lived a life of piety and virtuosity, Baba Shah Cherag died on 12 August 1657 AD.

His mausoleum was build through order of Mugal Emperor Shah Jahan, who was a great admirer of the saint. Inside his mausoleum, there are about seven other graves including of his father and grandfather. There are also many graves outside his mausoleum, including those of his sons, grandsons and few other nobels. At south of the mausoleum, there is a beautiful mosque, built by Nazim of Lahore (of that time), Nawab Bahadur Khan. The Mosque has five doors and 5 domes. The building is designed in traditional Mughal style of architecture. The exterior of the tomb is made up from lime-stone and the interior is decorated with beautiful floral frescoes, on its walls and ceiling. The mausoleum is a square in plan, its

facades are decorated with cusped arch niches and cartouches set within a paneled scheme.

It was built with the money obtained by the sale of the ornaments denoted by Nawab's mother, who had made a will to that effect. During the Sikh period, this mosque was used the storage of weapons. During the British rule, it was used as a private residence the local of deputy commissioner. According to Kanaihya Lal, three deputy commissioners got a chance to live there. The middle dome is larger in size than the rest of the domes. The frescoes on the Minbar(pulpit) and Mehrab(arch) had been restored and red sandstone from Agra was used for the stairs.

Bibliography:

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