

## Jahangir's Tomb

At the north side of Lahore, the Mausoleum of Jahangir is situated in the town of Shahdara. It was built in the middle of the then Dilamiz garden (presently known as Bagh-e-Dilkusha). However, Emperor Shajhan built this tomb in his father's memory, after death of Jahangir who died in 1627 A.D. (1037 A.H.). The deadbody of Jahagir was brought to Lahore and buried in the Garden. So, the superb edifice presently known as Jahangir's tomb (Maqbrara e Jahangir). Salih Kamboh mentioned in Amal e Salih that:

ودریکی از باغات آن روی آب بقعه فردوس صفات روضه، مقدسه قرار یافت. و چون آن حضرت بنا بر متابعت سنت سنی، حضرت فردوس مکانی بابر بادشاه وضیت فرموده بودند که مرقد ایشان از حلیه عمارت خالی باشد و در موضعی سرکشاده بلطف ایزدی سپارند تا پیوسته از سحاب رحمت بی حساب الهی بیواسطه حجاب کامیاب باشد. لاجرم حضرت خلافت مرتبت وصیت آنحضرت را کار بسته تخت گابی عالی بساحت صد در صد ذراع از سنگ سرخ تراشیده بدور مرقد ترتیب داده برفراز آن چپوتره بست در بست از سنگ مرمر مصنوع بصنعت پرچین کاری که دقیق تراز خاتم بندبست مرتب شده در وسط حقیقی صورت مرقد آن بادشاه جنت آرمگاه نمودار گشت و باوجود کمتر تکلف بصرف ده لک روپیه در مدت ده سال صورت اتمام یافت

*"On the bank of the River, in one of the beautiful garden which looks like paradise (of his great grandfather) Late Emperor Zahiruddin Baber, he (Jahangir) wanted to be buried in open, according to the Sunni teachings. That was because he wanted to have his grave directly shadowed by the clouds of blessing of Allah. According to his will, I (Shahjahan) in the capacity of his successor did exactly the same. A raised platform which was square in shape and 10000 square zeraa (nearly a foot) in dimension was built. It was made up of red stone. In the middle of it, the grave was built of marble. It was adorned with precious stones. In ten years' time, the tomb was completed with expense of one million rupees".*

In the interior of the mausoleum is an elevated sarcophagus of white marble, ensuring the remains of the emperor, the sides of which are wrought with flowers of mosaics. On two sides are most beautifully carved the 99 attributes of Allah; and on the top is an extract from Quran. At the head is the following inscription

In the inside of the tomb is a raised stone casket of white marble, preserving the remaining Jahangir, the sides of which are created with mosaics decorations. Allah's 99 attributes are beautifully carved and on the top following Quran wrote:

هو الله الذی لا اله الا هو عالم الغیب والشهادة هو الرحمن الرحیم

Following inscription is shown in foot side:

مرقد منور اعلی حضرت غفران پناه نور الدین محمد جهانگیر

The River Ravi washed away a portion of the garden wall. In Sikh dynasty Lahna Singh suffered the building in cruel hands.

The British government spent a sum of Rs.12500 on the restoration of the mausoleum

Rehmani describes significance of the Jahangir's mausoleum in following words:

*"Jahangir's mausoleum, after its completion, emerged as a monument of surpassing beauty; the first ornamentation in Lahore, and the most magnificent edifice in India prior to the Taj Mahal. Peculiarity of planning, variety of refined embellishment especially in pietra dura and stone inlay, a quartet of lofty and slender minarets, and a large garden stylized as a char bagh comprising sixteen plots or a double set of eight 'paradises' with a sarai in front etc. are the outstanding features of this grand mausoleum".*

## **Bibliography**

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