

Roshnai Gate

Roshnai Darwaza, or the gate of splendor, counted as one of the gateways of the town. This massive gate lies towards North in between Badshahi Masjid and Lahore Fort. Akbar reserved this gate for the movement of nobles and aristocracy. Badshahi Masjid and this gate were illuminated in particular by the order of the Emperor. The people came and enjoyed the lighting so this gate became famed as *Roshnai Gate*. The illumination also guided the boat passengers at night as the river Ravi flew near it before changing its course. This place has been working as big grocery market but shifted by Akber the great at Akbari Market.

River Ravi has changed its course during the Aurang Zab Alamgir period and Maharaja Ranjeet Singh has created a beautiful *Gurdawara (Sikh Temple) Dera Sahib* a memorial of 5th Sikh Guru Arjun Das.

It was near this gate that Prince NauNihal Singh, son of Kharak Singh, and Mian Udham Singh, eldest son of Gulab Singh, were killed by the fall of a portion of an archway (since destroyed), as they appeared together from the passage, on return from the funeral pile of Kharak Singh to the place where the Prince was to be crowned Maharaja of the Punjab. (Lal)

"The only gates kept open for the public business during the administration of the three Sardars were the Delhi, the Lohari and Roshnai Gates all the rest had been briked up" (Choudry)

Rehmani also mentioned

"The gate was rebuilt during the Sikh period. A present it maintains the same restored character" (Rehmani)

Bibliography

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