

QUTAB UD DIN AIBAK

Sultan Shahabud Din Muhammad Ghori was issueless. After establishing a big Muslim state in the sub-continent, the Sultan appointed Qutabud Din Aibak (his able and prudent slave who was take his adopted son) as his successor on 602 A.H, 1206 A.D. His coronation ceremony held at Lahore with all pomp and show and was attended by all particularly by the Muslims. Aibak was first living resident Muslim Sultan for the Sub-Continent. That was certainly a crucial period, Muslim had to prove themselves better and brave over the Hindus in every aspect and discipline of life. He was the first Muslim Sultan to reside in Delhi.

Lahore had been emerged as center of excellence and people all around coming here for seeking knowledge, commerce, trade and tour. Great scholar, historian and researcher like Fakharud Din Mubarak Shah and Hassan Nazami were living in Lahore. Hazrat sheikh Yaqoob Zanjani was ready to serve the knowledge seekers. Lahore had developed into a business hub, big markets of all sorts of lively hood and industry were enough to carry goods to other areas of the state. Fakharud Din Mubarak Shah wrote his famous book *ShajraAnsab* (book of Hierarchy) after consulting more than 1000 books. The book was presented to the Sultan Qutabud Din Aibak, which pleased the Sultan so much that he, not only, awarded a huge amount to the compiler yet ordered to put a translated copy of the book in the royal Library..

This incident referred that Sultan was not only a good administrator rather he was a book and writers lover too, Libraries system was so effective at Lahore that one could find as many book on a particular topic.Northern India was under the control of the Muslim and Lahore, no doubt, was determined “center of Islamic Studies of India”. Literacy rate at that time was beyond 90% in the period of Sultan Qutabud Din Aibak.

Sultan has imposed a better governance system, equal and effective judiciary system, police reforms and administrations were so adequately enforced nobody even the non-Muslims had any complaint.

In 1210 A.D, 606 A.H Sultan Qutabud Din died, when he got severe injuries while playing *ChoganPolo* (taj al ma’asar by Hassan NizamiNishapurip-15). A beautiful tomb was constructed on the grave of Sultan Qutabud Din Aibak by his successor Sultan Altutmash. This had been popular place to visit by the public up to Mughal period as described by mulla Abdul QadirBadayooni. Even Mufti Tajud Din states “name mohallah **QutabGhori**” was awarded to this part of city in the expansion program during Mughals. Centennial Celebrations happened on every 14th Rajab, lunar month, which showed the importance of Qutabud din Aibak in the hearts of the Muslim.(Din 1962)

“Originally embellished with white marble, it was the first example of the Slave Dynasty’s imperial construction at Lahore. The tomb was present at the time of Emperor Akbar as reported by Abdul Qadir Badyuni in his book *Mutakhabut Tawarikh*. He further informs us that,

'Qutbud Din Aibak's mausoleum in his day was public haunt'. Even as late as 1733 an annual fair was held there".(Rehmani 2016)

This was a splendid two story edifice with white marble double dome, unfortunately, demolished during Sikh regime. Now, a beautiful and befitting tomb has been constructed by Department of Archaeology designed by Anwar Siraj (a Designer of the Department) in the famous Anarkali Bazar.

Bibliography

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