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The Mughal Aviary: Women's Writings in Pre-Modern India
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the present study deals with the royal mughal ladies in details and is concerned with their achievements and contributions which till today form a part of rich cultural heritage it provides a detailed account of the life and contributions of the royal mughal ladies from the times of babar to aurangzeb s with special emphasis on the most prominent among them

a reminiscence back to the mughal era which savored the nuances of being one of the most enigmatic ruling periods under shah jahan and his clan eventually burning down to shreds with the inevitable shuffling for the sovereignty of padshah begum narrated by firdouz a mere lady in waiting to the first lady of hindustan begum jahan ara this book shall take you on a majestic tour of mystifying incidents and surplus royalty notwithstanding the double faced parallel sister sovereign of begum jahan ara and

roshan ara who go leaps and bounds to fulfil their uncourteous desires and outrageous lust for supremacy ruling far in the deccan shah jahan s youngest son aurangzeb returns with his entire army not to his own home but on the pretext of arresting his elder brother prince dara marked as the future king of hindustan and thus seizing the throne the palace reigns rightfully fall into the hands of the mighty prince of the deccan further house arresting shah jahan and his daughter jahan ara till eternity an anecdote that will braze you over a historic tour from the rising of the mighty empire of the mughals to betrayal for the prevailing throne the ominous essence of a lady s charisma on a ruler s reign

this 2005 book looks at domestic life and the place of women in the mughal court of the sixteenth century

this work is a maiden attempt at research in the hitherto overlooked area of social history of medieval india it attempts to recapitulate the day to day life of the ladies of the seraglio the delicate and delightful task has been deftly handled and it is hoped that scholars and laymen both will enjoy

the particular experience of enslaved women across different cultures and many different eras is the focus of this work

offers an annotated source for the study of the public and private lives of south asian muslim women

proximity to the monarch was a vital asset in the struggle for power and influence in medieval and early modern courts the concept of access to the ruler has therefore grown into a dominant theme in scholarship on pre modern dynasties still many questions remain concerning the mechanisms of access and their impact on politics bringing together new research on european and asian cases the ten chapters in this volume focus on the ways in which access was articulated regulated negotiated and performed by taking into account the full complexity of hierarchies ceremonial rites spaces and artefacts that characterized the dynastic court the key to power forces us to rethink power relations in the late medieval and early modern world contributors are christina antenhofer ronald g asch florence berland mark hengerer neil murphy fabian persson jonathan spangler michael talbot steven thiry and audrey truschke

this innovative book explores of the grandest and longest lasting empire in indian history examines the history of the mughal presence in india from 1526 to the mid eighteenth century creates a new framework for understanding the mughal empire by addressing themes that have not been explored before subtly traces the legacy of the mughals world into today s india

this book focuses on women s important contribution to sufism by analyzing the lives

and seminal contributions of six mystic sufi women to islamic spirituality to help reverse the sidelining of sufi women in the recorded academic literature the author has selected a representative sample of figures from diverse islamic dynasties with varying backgrounds social status and devotional contributions taking a historical approach attentive to specific political contexts readers will be introduced to the contributions of umm ali al balkhī and fātima of nishāpūr in the ninth century khurāsān aisha al mannūbiyya of the hafsīd dynasty in ifrīqiya aisha al bā ūniyya of the mamlūk dynasties of egypt and syria the mughal princess jahan ara begum and the daughter of the caliph of sokoto nana asma u it is argued that these ascetic and sufi women were recognized by their male and female peers became political leaders in their communities and were honored as examples of sanctity and erudition their works influenced mystical discourse hagiographical writings religious language and models of religious authority to secure legacies of islamic orthopraxis the book will appeal to anyone interested in sufism and sufi history as well as to those wishing to delve into the understudied topic of muslim women s spirituality

the taj mahal is the tangible form of love it had stood perfectly enduring the centuries showing generations that pure love can withstand all storms this is the story of khurram and arjumand how a boy and girl transformed into a power couple and re shaped the history of india their love just like the taj endured despite separation power struggle wars and politics and in the end even death it seemed to have transcended the living realm and gone beyond to heaven shahjahan erected in marble the fabric of his love and no matter what the obstacles they always remained together in his final days shahjahan was imprisoned by his son aurangzeb in a fort overlooking the taj mahal and yet the call of his love remained the blood in his veins and his soul met his wife when he was buried beside her after his death

this book examines slavery in india from the turkish conquest of north india to the centuries of mughal rule it focuses on the northern islamic regimes treatment of slavery but not limited or determined by the actions and demands of the ruling class alone societies normalized the practices and the norms were socially constituted which included slaves acceptance resistance and use of agency in the process it shows how the transformations on the ground made the social economic and ethical environment of slavery no longer the same over the centuries and the expansion or contraction of slavery corresponded to the structural changes and ethical developments specific to the indian milieu the volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of south asian studies history and slavery

finalist for the 2018 los angeles times book prize in history a luminous biography rafia zakaria guardian four centuries ago a muslim woman ruled an empire nur jahan daughter of a persian noble and widow of a subversive official became the twentieth and most cherished wife of the emperor jahangir nur ruled the vast mughal empire

alongside her husband leading troops into battle signing imperial orders and astutely handling matters of the state acclaimed historian ruby lal uncovers the rich life and world of nur jahan rescuing this dazzling figure from patriarchal and orientalist clichés of romance and intrigue and giving new insight into the lives of women and girls in the mughal empire in empress nur jahan finally receives her due in a deeply researched and evocative biography that awakens us to a fascinating history

this book seeks to present an integrated study of 350 mughal documents covering the period from 1526 to 1627 and spanning the reigns of babur humayun akbar and jahangir it gives a general idea of the nature contents and territorial range of the documents and assesses their value for reconstructing the history of mughal india which has hitherto been largely based on chronicles travelogues manual etc it shows that the mughals modelled their documentary practices after those prevalent in their homeland and those followed by their turko afghan predecessors

the book examines the representation of women their agency and subjectivity and gender relations in 18th and 19th century india the chapters in the volume interrogate notions and discourses of women and gender during the period historically shaped by multiple and even competing actors practices and institutions they highlight the making of the woman across a wide spectrum of subject areas regions and roles and attempt to understand the contradictions and differences in social experiences and identity formations of women the volume also deals with prevalent notions of masculinity and femininity normative and non conformist expressions of gender and sexual identity and epistemological concerns of gender especially in its intersectional interplay with other axes of caste class race region and empire presenting unique understandings of our gendered pasts this volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of history gender studies and south asian studies

a lover or a hater a saint or a satan a liberator or an oppressor was he a protector of the weak the saviour of their lives or just another arch nemesis of their rights and lives who was shah jahan truly this extensively researched book will answer all these mysteries it sheds light onto the dark and atrocious past of emperor shah jahan ruler of the mughal empire which historians and society have completely ignored it shows how the taj mahal has worked as a blanket under which the darkest deeds of shah jahan have been buried this book puts a big question mark on the legacy of shah jahan and the taj mahal as we know it today

pratiyogita darpan monthly magazine is india s largest read general knowledge and current affairs magazine pratiyogita darpan english monthly magazine is known for quality content on general knowledge and current affairs topics ranging from national and international news issues personality development interviews of examination toppers articles write up on topics like career economy history public administration geography polity social environment scientific legal etc solved papers of various

examinations essay and debate contest quiz and knowledge testing features are covered every month in this magazine

after identifying the misconceptions attached to the figure of the mughal courtesan and then defining it in terms of the dual component structure of *adaa* in the face of a dearth of literature that exists on the culture and the agency of the courtesan this analysis would reinterpret the status of the courtesan figure within the domain of feminist theories and self assertion the female desire for autonomy according to elaine showalter defines a female exclusivity in terms of the dynamic phase which is a combination of the feminine conflict between self fulfillment and duty the feminist political consciousness and the female desire for autonomy if one operates the courtesan figure in the showalter domain then the means to resist gender hierarchies through literary practices lie in a combination of both demand for exclusivity and real struggle into a truly subversive aesthetic which would have allowed the courtesan to have walked the corridors of power juliet mitchells argument states that the gendered treatment of women came into existence through the ideological form of the novel with females constructing themselves as the women they are under bourgeois norms by reading and writing novels rereading the silencing of the sirens would uncover another such exclusive female tradition studying the female consciousness from the courtesans point of view

situated at the intersections between history and literature the book explores the life stories written in the mughal period to recover socio cultural developments in the period it focuses on the genre of life stories and looks at the complex interactions between agency and the ruling structure in shaping historical formations the biographical dictionaries explored in this book highlight the significance of the agency of political actors and the strategies through which the aristocrats and the elites reproduced the political system at the same time these texts are also quite helpful in recovering processes through which the ordinary people in routine everyday forms negotiated with and contested the political system delving into the life narratives preserved in the *tazkiras* or biographical compendia this book looks at the household as a political formation and positions the aristocratic households as integral to the reproduction of imperial sovereignty the work also delves into the world of emotions and argues for the need to draw linkages between political developments and shifts in emotions and affect this book will be an essential resource for scholars and researchers of history especially early modern history cultural studies literature sociology south asian history it will also be of interest to those studying gender and political discourse in early modern south asia

history is the record of past events the purpose of history is not only knowing and understanding the events of the past but also helping to complete what has been began india has a glorious past of different cultures and traditions it has set an example of

unity in diversity and it is revealed in religion literature art and towards building secular democratic liberal and value oriented society

this volume delves into the literary lives of four muslim women in pre modern india three of them gulbadan begam 1523 1603 the youngest daughter of emperor babur jahanara 1614 1681 the eldest daughter of emperor shah jahan and zeb un nissa 1638 1702 the eldest daughter of emperor aurangzeb belonged to royalty thus they were inhabitants of the mughal zenana an enigmatic liminal space of qualified autonomy and complex equations of gender politics amidst such constructs gulbadan begam s humayun nama biography of her half brother humayun reflecting on the lives of babur s wives and daughters jahanara s hagiographies glorifying mughal monarchy and zeb un nissa s free spirited poetry that landed her in aurangzeb s prison are discursive literary outputs from a position of gendered subalternity while the subjective selves of these women never much surfaced under extant rigid conventions their indomitable understanding of home world antinomies determinedly emerge from their works this monograph explores the political imagination of these mughal women that was constructed through statist interactions of their royal fathers and brothers and how such knowledge percolated through the relatively cloistered communal life of the zenana the fourth woman habba khatoon 1554 1609 famously known as the nightingale of kashmir offers an interesting counterpoint to her royal peers as a common woman who married into royalty her husband yusuf shah chak was the ruler of kashmir in 1579 1586 her happiness was short lived with her husband being treacherously exiled by emperor akbar khatoon s verse which voices the pangs of separation was that of an ascetic who allegedly roamed the valley and is famed to have introduced the lol lyric into kashmiri poetry across genres and social positions of all these writers this volume intends to cast hitherto unfocused light on the emergent literary sensibilities shown by muslim women in pre modern india

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