

The Mughal Harem

Royal Mughal Ladies and Their Contributions
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Domesticity and Power in the Early Mughal World
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Encyclopaedia of Muslim women
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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

the women of mughal harem secrets revealed gives an exhilarating account of the mughal domestic life harem of the mughals has been a subject of much speculation and debate amongst the scholars and the general public alike while foreign travelers have painted it as a pleasure house meant for the sexual gratification of one man the emperor native chroniclers have called it an abode of quintessential bliss so what was the reality of harem just like any normal household the life of harem inmates bears testament to joy and pain hope and despair love and loss all the bittersweet emotions that add spice and flavor to human life in fact the mughal harem was a far more diverse and vibrant institution than what it is believed to be it was a unique all women s world this book brings to life the trials and tribulations of generations of mughal women who inhabited a world very different from ours today when a worldwide debate is going on to trace women s place in history this work has become all the more relevant a peek into the lives of mughal women would give us a better understanding of an obscured and almost mythical world the harem of the mighty mughals

in a fascinating and innovative study first published in 2005 ruby lal explores domestic life and the place of women in the mughal court of the sixteenth century challenging traditional orientalist interpretations of the harem that have portrayed a domestic world of seclusion and sexual exploitation the author reveals a complex society where noble men and women negotiated their everyday life and public political affairs in the inner chambers as well as the outer courts using ottoman and safavid histories as a counterpoint she demonstrates the richness ambiguity and particularity of the mughal harem which was pivotal in the transition to institutionalisation and imperial excellence

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

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

despite what we would like to believe the mahal was not an exotic sexual playground it was a family space and the stories of these women from queens and princesses to foster mothers and female officers deserve to be heard in every citadel of the mughal empire there existed a luxurious fortress that housed the women of the court known as the mahal this closely guarded space that few men could enter has intrigued the world for centuries uncovering the little known lives of the remarkable women who inhabited the mahal this commanding narrative introduces us to ehsan daulat begum babur s grandmother without whose enterprise there would have been no mughal empire the padshah begums who ran the vast establishment of the mahal with an all women team the female scholars and poets like zeb un nissa salima sultan begum zeenat un nissa who influenced the emperor in matters of diplomacy and state policy and the queens and princesses who ran vast estates and oversaw fleets of trading vessels among others mahal is a rare peek into life behind the veil and an illuminating account of the role women played in the courts of the mughal empire

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

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

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