Chapter 08

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Society And Culture

Petra duri:-

Decorating the marble walls of buildings with floral designs made of semi-precious stones is called 'Petra dura'. Shah Jaghan used this style on a large scale in the Taj Mahal at Agra which even today is regarded as a jewel of the builder's art.

Hindawari:-

During this medieval period, the local language of north India wwas called "Hindawari'. Before Akbar revenue records were kept in the local languages as well as in Persion. But Akbar dispensed with this practice as the knowledge of Persian had by then become quite wide spread.

Ulema:-

Muslim scholars and theologians are called 'Ulema's. Some orthodox 'Ulema' reacted against the liberal policies of religious tolerance of Akbar. But Akbar remained unmoved by their reactionary attitude.

Tauhid:-

The belief in the unity of Godhead or the concept of Pantheistic is called 'Tauhid'. The concept of 'Touhid' was practiced by Akbar and most of the Sufi saints even though the orthodox ulemas reacted against it.

Sama:-

The musical recitation organised by Sufi saints were called 'Sama'. Such religious gatherings were encouraged by Sufi saints like Mizam-ud-Din Aulia who loved such recitation which were often opposed by the orthodox ulema.

Khudhkasht:-

The peasants who owned the land they tilled were called 'Khudkasht'. Some of them had their own ploughs and bullocks. They paid fixed revenue on these lands.

Garhis: -

The landlords of the Mughal period kept own armed forces and lived in small forts called 'Garhis' which were smaller than the forts or 'Garhs'. They helped the king with their forces whenever called upon to do so.

Banjar:-

'Banjar' was the wasteland which had never been cultivated. Generally anyone who first brought this land under cultivation was considered its owner. It was the common practice during the medieval times in India.

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Society And Culture

Madadd-i-Maash:-

During the Mughal rule, scholars and religious divines were granted small tracts of land for their maintenance. These grants were called 'Madadd-i-Maash'. These Grants were generally renewed by every new ruler.

Hundi:-

Movement of money has always been risky. Therefore, the traders during the Mughal period used letters of credit which were called 'hundis'. These 'hundis' were payable after a period of time at a discount.

Rahdari:-

'Rahdari' was the road cess which the Mughal rulers had declared illegal in their empire so as to make communication and transport of goods easier.

Qasbas:-

'Qasbas' were small townships which were bigger in size than a village but were smaller than towns and cities. They rose as a result of the growth of the rural grain markets.