

The history of the great, glorious city Lahore on Ravi, capital of its most celebrated dynasties, luminous centre of intellectual activities, home of the highest civilization, is itself a splendid relic for historians and masses of this land, writes

Mustabshera Quddus

*From the destined walls
Of Lambala Seat of Cathian
lan,
And Samarchand by Oxus,
Temir's throne
To Paquin of Simen kings;
and thence
To Agra and Lahore of
Great Mogal —
(Paradise lost BK XI, I)*

The early history of Lahore is enveloped in a mist of traditions, conjecture and guesses. Definite references to this town have been made only by the early Arab geographers and Muslim historians. Lahore Presumably founded by Rajputs from Western India.

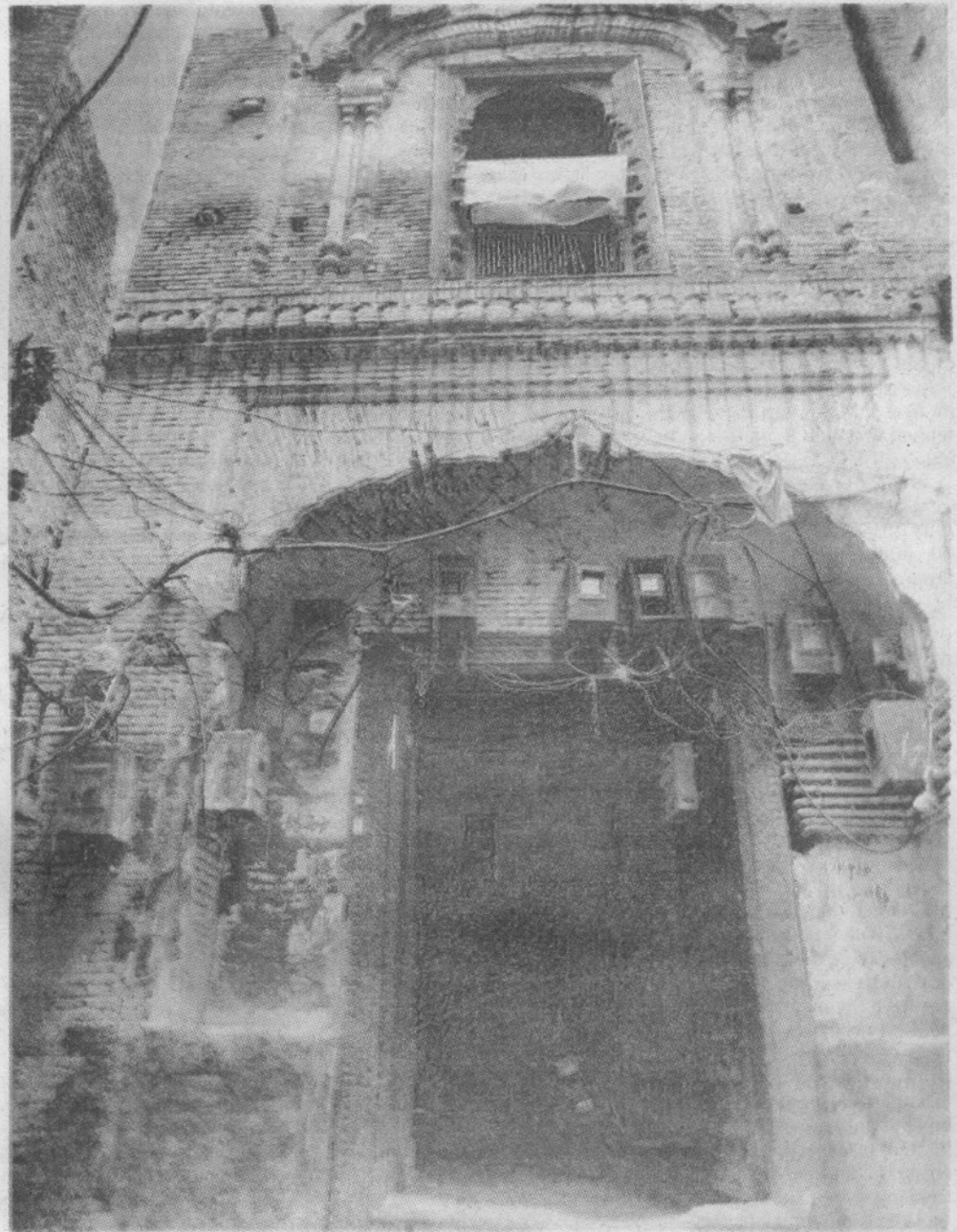
Colonel Tod in his Annals of Rajistan, assign the middle of the Second century as the date of existence of Lahore. During this era that Claudius Ptolemy, surname Ptolemy, the celebrated astronomer and geographer, wrote his geography. In which he mentioned a city called 'Labokla' situated on the route between the Indus and palibothar (Patna) in a tract of country Kasperia (Kashmir)

The mythical founder of Lohwar or Lahore, was Lov or Loh one of the two sons of Rama, the hero of the famous epic-loom the Ramayana, the other son, Kash, Having according to the same tradition, founded the sister town of Kaswar or Kasur. Its name is associated with the age of chivalry of the Hindus, the legends of the martial prowess of their remote ancestors and the traditions of their ancient civilization.

Lahore has been differently

The historical memories of Lahore

Lahore
31-12-02
News



named by different authors. That Lahore, the Lavpor and Lokot of Hindus, the Lohwar, Lahar, Lahanur or Rhwar of the

Mehmodens and possibly Labokla of Ptolemy, was founded by ancient race of Rajput's towards the end of Second

century after Christ; that is rose to importance after invasion of Mehmud of Gazna in the eight and ninth centuries, becoming

the capital of a powerful principality and the parent of other colonies, that owing to change the dynasty.

From Second century till present era, 'Lahore' history is replete with many ruling dynastic. And the foremost is the

The Haj (Chach) Dynasty (? 389 A-H / ? - 999 A-D)

All the scholars writing about Lahore have hitherto informed us that the first known rulers of Lahore are the Hindu Shahi monarchies. It is related that Haj (Bhadra) who was the founder and ruler of Lahore, had a son name Banrat. He worshipped the son, lived to advanced age 93 years. Banrat's son Chandarat ruled over Lahore for nine years. And in 9999 A.D Kingdom of Lahore now passed from descendent of Haj to Hindu Shahis.

The Hindu Shahis

(389 - 417 A-H / 999 - 1026 A-D)

Shah Jaipal Become the Amir of Lahore in 389 A-H. He is a first ruler who actually ruled in Lahore and whose dominion in shown by Muslim. The Hindu Shahis dynasty was its fate when Mahmud finally defeated the Rajas in 1014 A-D and thus set his government in Lahore. thus came to an end a grand dynasty of Rajas as whole Al-Bruni remarks of the whole house there is no longer the slightest remains in existence.

Ghazanvis

(405 - 852 A-H / 1014 - 1186 A-D)

During the reigns of the first eight princes of the Ghanavis dynasty Lahore was governed by viceroys; but in the reign of Masuad II (1098 - 1104 A-D) the seat of Govt was temporarily removed to Lahore. Lahore was again made the seat of empire by Khosru, the twelfth Ghaznvide Emperor, and would appear to have remained so until the fall of the dynasty in A-D 1186.

Ghauri and Slave Dynasty (582-689 A-H / 1186-1189 A-D)

During the Ghauri and Slave dynastic Lahore was the focus of conspiracies against the Government. In A-D 1211, Lahore was taken and plundered by the hordes of Gengiz Khan and in AD 1286 Prince Muhammad, the accomplished son of Sultan Gheias -Ud-din Balban, Perished in an

encounter with the moguls, on the bank of Ravi, the poet Amir Khosru being taken prisoner by his side.

The Khaljis

(689 - 721 A-H / 1289 - 1321 A-D)

In this era, Lahore is not prominent in the political history of the day. It was once plundered by the Ghakkars, and mention is made of mogul colonists taking up their abode in the vicinity of the city, the place of their location being still known by the name of Moghalpura.

Toghlak Dynasty

(721 - 815 A-H / 1321 - 1412 A-D)

The year 1397 is memorable as the date of invasion of Timur 'Fire brand of the universe' Lahore was taken by detachment of this forces. On his departure, Lahore was left in possession of Syed Khazr Khan an Afghan noble, native of India, whom he appointed viceroy.

Sayyids

(817 - 852 A-H / 1414 - 1448 A-D)

During the sayyids dynasty, Lahore was not prominent politically, and are only hear of it during the insurrection of Ghkhkhar.

The Lodhi Dynasty

(852 - 932 A-H / 1448 - 1526 A-D)

From this period, the city was alternately in the hands of the Ghakkars and the ruling dynasty, until in A-D 1436, it was seized by Behlol Khan Lodhi, who rose to power on the overthrow of the toghlak dynasty, and eventually became Emperor. In 1524 A-D Lahore taken by Baber. He did not remain long at Lahore, but after a halt of only four days, march on towards Delhi. The expedition of Baber to invade Lahore was ended in A-D 1526, in the decisive victory panipat over the Afghan army, the capture of Delhi and the foundation of the mogul Empire.

Mughals

(932 - 947 A-H / 1526 - 1540 A-D)

The Reigns of Humayun, Akbar, Jehangir Shahjehan, and Aurangzeb, the successors of Baber, may be considered the golden period of the history of Lahore.

Akbar

During his residence at

Lahore 1584 to 1598 A.D. enclosed the city with a brick wall of considerable height and strength. He also founded the palaces, which in subsequent times, was enlarged by his successors. It was during this period that some Portugees missionaries, at the express request of Akbar, proceeded from Goa to the Emperor's court at Lahore.

Lahore the second city of the Moghal Empire (as well on account of riches as it size) is ornamented with fine palaces and gardens, also with thanks and fountains. Lahore reached the height of its prosperity in the time of Shah Jahan. It fell of in wealth and importance during the time of his successor, Aurangzeb Alamgir.

Later Mughals

(1119-1173 A.H.)/(1703-1759 A.D.)

The reign 1738 was marked as the invasion of Nadir Shah. On account of growing power and success of Mahratta led to the eight invasions of Ahmed Shah. During thirty years of later Mughul Empire following the final departure of Ahmad Shah (A.D. 1767-1797), the Sikh were left to themselves, and increase in wealth and numbers.

At length A.D. 1797, the spell was again broken with Shah Zaman invasion to establish the Durrani Empire. But Ranjit Sing eventually obtained the sovereignty of the Punjab.

Sikhs

(1182-1265 A.H.)/(1768-1849 A.D.)

In 1799, Ranjit Sing became master of Lahore and assumed the title of Sirdar, during 1844 A.D, in the era of 'Lal Sing' the fact were knows that they had great threat by the English and the fixed policy of the English was territorial aggrandizement and that the immediate object of their ambition was the conquest of Lahore. They virtually declared war with the English on (17th Nov. 1845 A.D.). At this stage they were defeated by the English on 22nd Dec. 1845, following this defeat the Skirmish of Baddowal (21st Jan. 1846 A.D), the battle of Aliwal (28th Jan. 1846 A.D). And Sobroam (10th Feb. 1846 A.D) resulted in total defeat of Sikhs, and Lahore was occupied by the British troops.

The Sikh army, once again

openly revolted against British, the bloody battle of Chelianwala was fought on the 13th Jan. 1849 A.D. This was the last great effort to recover their country, and it was followed by the battle of Gujrat on 21st Feb. 1849 A.D. Now the Kingdom of Lahore having come to an end, the country was annexed to the British India.

The British (1849-1947 A.D)

When British came to power, after annexing the whole country. To do the work smoothly, a Board of Administration was established in Lahore, with powers to communicate directly with the Governor-General. In February 1853 A.D. the Board of Administration was abolished and Sir John Lawrence was appointed the first Chief Commissioner of the Punjab.

Four years later in 1857 A.D. came the War of independence waged by the Indians against the British, styled as Muting by the rulers. Eventually the British rule was struck its fate with endeavour struggle of sub-continent masses for independence, resulted in establishment of Pakistan and Hindustan in 1947 A.D.

With the inception of Pakistan, the new provincial capital is enjoying the period of glory with boundless in the no. of building peerless in beauty and splendor.

Of the beauty and elegance of Lahore and the palaces in it, the emperor Jehangir write in Tjzk-a-Jehangir.

"The city of Lahore is beautifully situated, commanding agreeable views having one side a river with crystal water, which descends from mountains of Kashmir."

About palaces he wrote..... "Without exaggeration these are mansions delightful and charming and habitations lovely and attractive, exquisitely fine and elegant, adorned throughout with painting and engravings".

"From head to feet wherever I behold thee, Beauty attracts the heart at each step urging; That is the palace for thee."

Send your suggestions to
Incharge Focus at:
am616@hotmail.com