

# Home

SAJID ABBAS visits two spots off the busy roads near the Bagh-  
their time are resting

Lahore

B

agh-e-Jinnah one of the most frequented gardens of Lahore, formerly known as the Lawrence Garden, is an old and interesting place.

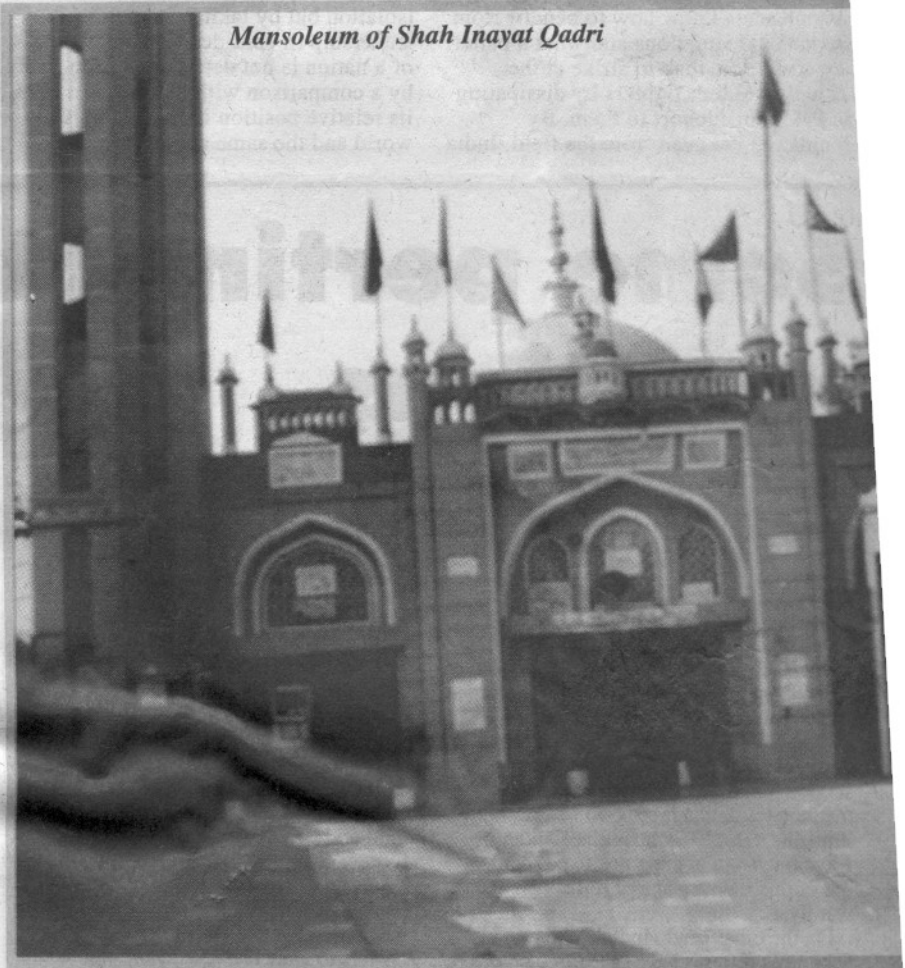
Visited by not only Lahorites but practically every visitor to the city, it is spread over an area of more than a hundred and some acres and happens to be about a century and a half old. Before the area was turned into a garden in the mid nineteenth century, it was said to be a forlorn and uninteresting spot, part of a large and vast graveyard, perhaps, where the main edifice or mausoleum was that of a royal cousin, that of Qasim Khan a cousin of Akbar. This structure now forms part of the residence of the top most officer of the Province and is quite separate from the garden.

Apart from that, there are a number of mounds scattered around the place. These mounds once marked the working pits of the potters of Lahore, where they are said to have had their wheels and their kilns, too. Then there were other not so conspicuous prominences in the place and its vicinity. These may have been other monuments and graves. Some of these graves or tombs seem to have a known and recorded history, facts which have been noted by old chroniclers in their accounts of the city and its environs. In case of others, things may not be so well known and the information or particulars instead of being recorded were more or less transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth adding different colour on the way.

One prominent celebrity, who is resting around that area, happens to be the mentor of two well known suftee poets of the Punjab. Well respected by the people of this land, a well read and cultivated guide, well versed in both spiritual and temporal scholarship, Sheikh Muhammad Inayatullah Qadri, alias Shah Inayat Qadri, belonged to a family of talented teachers and men of letters who took pride in their profession.

Sheikh Inayatullah's father, molvi Peer Muhammad had left Lahore and settled in Kasur. Sheikh Inayatullah was born in this town in 1646 in the days of

Mansoleum of Shah Inayat Qadri



Shahjehan and was brought up there. He was sent to 'school' at a very young age and is said to have learnt the Quran by heart when he was barely five, by the time he was twelve he had passed through various levels of erudition and had succeeded in acquiring a certain degree of proficiency in divers subjects.

Next he travelled to Lahore and became a disciple of Shah Reza Shattari. After staying for a number of years in his company, he was asked by his mentor to return to his town of birth, Kasur, to propagate the learning that he had acquired in life so far. It was not long before the reputation of the learned man spread and that a large number of followers flocked to his fold.

It is said that the ruler of Kasur of that time, a certain Hussain Khan Afghan,

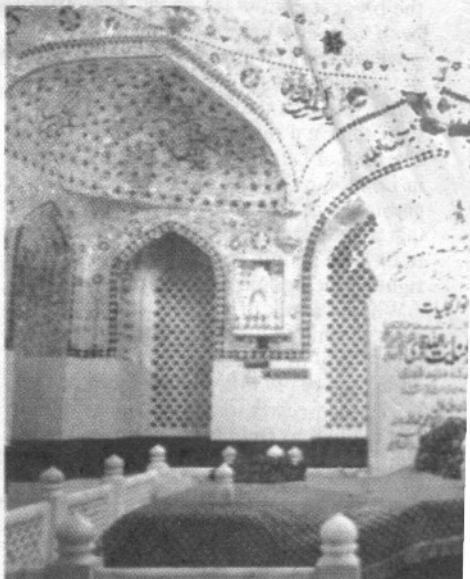
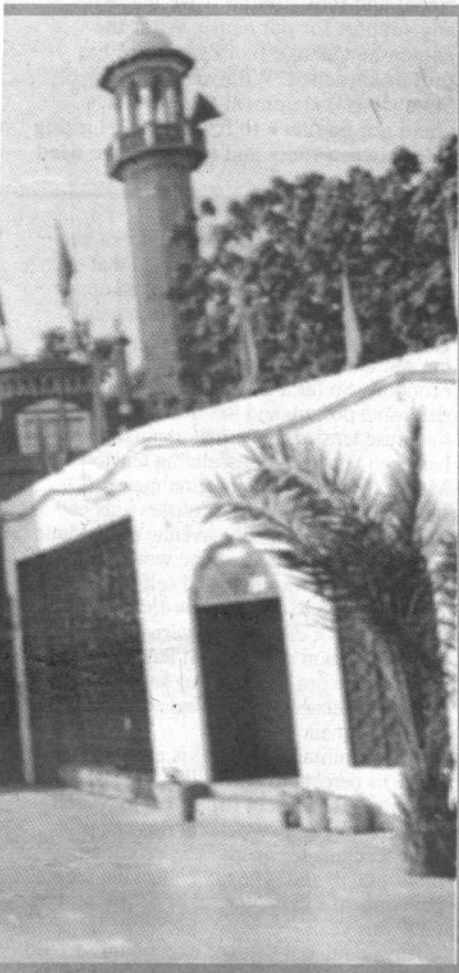
was not very happy with the situation brought about by people swarming around Shah Inayat, for, he (the ruler) did not like any body else, especially from amongst the common people, to gather a crowd around himself, so, he started manoeuvring matters in such fashion that Shah Inayat should leave the town. Though, the idea of leaving Kasur did not cross Shah Inayat's mind in the beginning, he finally thought it prudent to do, so, one fine morning, the Shah made up his mind, packed his bags and left Kasur for good.

Shah Inayat made straight for Lahore where he established a school, instructing both young and old in both spiritual and temporal guidance. A large number of people drank at his fountain of knowledge, but, two of his disciples

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*Interior of Shah Inayat's mausoleum*

community.

Not very far from the mausoleum of Shah Inayat Qadri, close to the offices of the Board of Secondary Education on the Mozang Road, completely hidden by structures and residences and approachable by a narrow passage

between modest residences is a small plot of land where the graves of Peer Muhammad Fazil Shah, his disciples and caretakers of his resting place can be found.

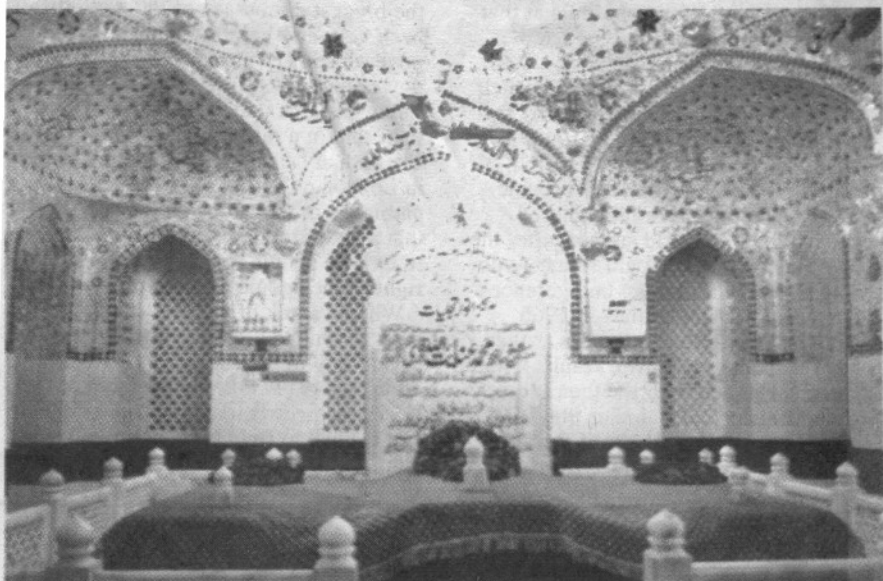
Peer Muhammad Fazil Shah was, said to be, another learned man, a teacher by profession and a calligrapher of repute, living in the days of Shahjehan. The holy man traced his ancestry by a Qadiree line to the royal house of Toos. He is said to have been running a school which received aid from the government of the day. An old chronicle mentions his name along with Shah Sharaf and Azizullah Shah, which



*Entrance to Shah's Mau*

happen to be the most well known Sufees of this land and are very well known all over the Punjab, in fact, all over the Punjabi speaking world. They are Bulleh Shah and Waris Shah.

Sheikh Inayatullah Qadri lived to a ripe old age of eighty-two years and passed away in 1728 in the days of Muhammad Shah. He is buried in a compound off Fatimah Jinnah Road, the former Queens Road, close to where the Lawrence Road crosses it. The mosque attached the to mausoleum was built some four decades ago and is marked by a lofty minaret. The mausoleum itself has been recently completed in marble (on the last Eid-ul-Fitr). The expenses were met by the Araeen community since Sheikh Inayatullah Qadri was an Araeen himself and has a lot of followers amongst the



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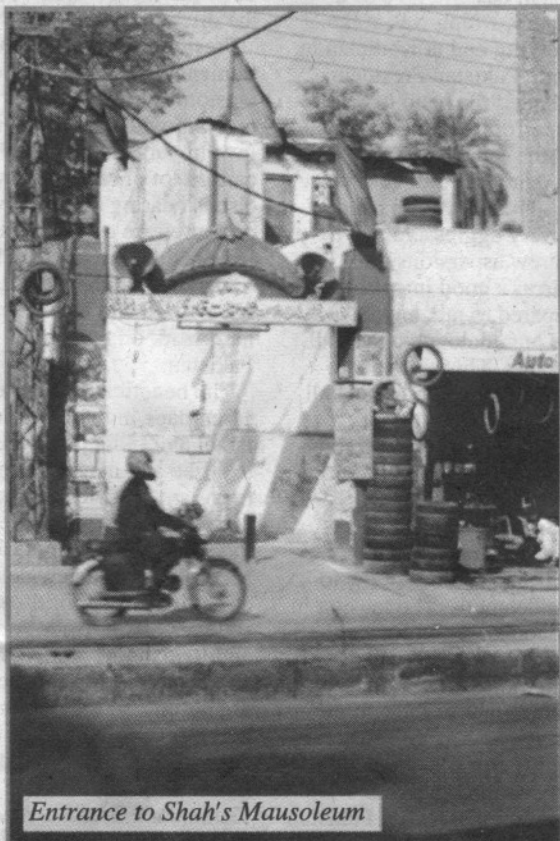
house of Toos. He is said to have been running a school which received aid from the government of the day. An old chronicle mentions his name along with Shah Sharaf and Azizullah Shah, which

are inscribed on the stone installed in the mausoleum.

That was what one could corroborate by sifting old records, carefully, nevertheless, one could come up with an altogether different story of (another) Fazil Shah, if care is not exercised. It is

said, that some other Fazil Shah became a disciple of a certain holy man. At one stage of his education and training, his mentor took him to Miani Sahib, the well known graveyard of Lahore and interred him in an empty tomb saying that he will return in a few days to retrieve him. It is said that when he was recovered after an interval he was drained of all energy and appeared to be absolutely pale. His mentor fed him a diet

made of barley for a number of days till he regained his strength. The incident is said to have elevated him to close to holiness, however, how far it is true, cannot be said nor recommended. ■



*Entrance to Shah's Mausoleum*