



INTACH

Saints of India

SHEIKH SALIM CHISTI



This painting shows Emperor Akbar meeting the Saint.

This Sufi saint was considered great mystic by one and all, he is believed to have performed many a miracles in his life time, one miracle which is said to have made him very famous was when Emperor Akbar is said to have visited him, after having heard about his powers from people, when Akbar visited him he asked his blessings. It is said that due to the blessings of this saint Prince Salim was born, who was named after this saint by Emperor Akbar, as a mark of respect. Prince Salim came to be known as Jahangir, one of the greatest Mughal rulers.

Sheikh Salim Chishti was born in the year in the year 1478, he belonged to the Chisti order of Sufis and was a disciple of Sheikh Moinuddin Chisti, who is the founder of the Chisti order of Sufism, and his dargah in Ajmer is highly revered.

Did you know: According to legends, it is believed that people who offer prayers at the Mazar (tomb) of this saint have had their wishes fulfilled by the will of the saint, because of this belief; a tradition of tying threads at the marble window of the Dargah is so popular.

The ancestral house of Shaikh Salim Chisti is also located in this complex of Sikri behind a mosque called "Sangtarash mosque" or Stone Cutter's mosque. This mosque was built by the local stone cutters in the memory of Salim Chisti. The mosque is built in the indigenous architectural style. It is said that Salim Chisti spent much of his time in this mosque after he came back from religious pilgrimage.

The tomb of Salim Chisti, Fatehpur Sikri



Emperor Akbar got this wonderful and exquisite tomb built in the memory of the saint, whom he so highly revered and this is one of the finest specimens of Mughal architecture from this period.

It is a white marble structure located in the middle of a huge sandstone structures, it evidences superior craftsmanship and intricacy in designs, which are elaborately showcased in the jali (screen) of the tomb structure. The roof is supported by intricately carved serpentine brackets that add to the elegance of the monument.

Thus, Sufi saints were known for their generous and humble approach towards knowing God, such was also the aura of this Saint, who had done very many miracles in his life time.

Activity

1. Name some other important Sufi saints of India.

2. Find out some information on the origins of Sufism in India.

Reference :

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