

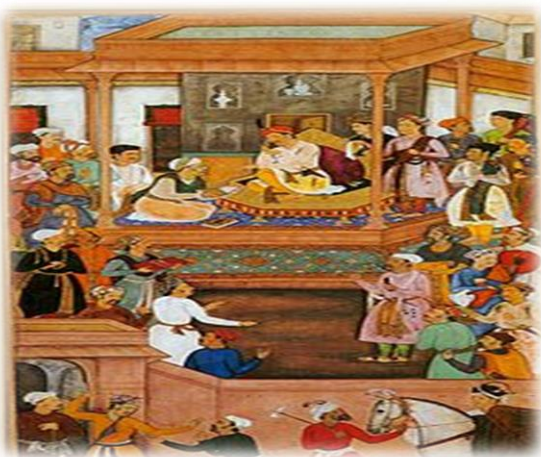
UNKNOWN FACTS ABOUT AKBAR

Descendant of Genghis Khan: -



The blood line of Akbar the Great shows he is a direct descendant of Genghis Khan, which makes his attributes all the more interesting. Since, Genghis Khan was a ruthless conqueror from the Mongol steppes, who invaded most of the known world during his period. He was known to be the most fearsome warrior on the field, and his forces were the most dreaded nightmare of any army. Since Genghis Khan was a Turk, controversies surround the ethnicity of Akbar the Great.

Akbar- the Polemic: - Akbar was the king who repealed the law to collect tax from Hindu pilgrims if they visited their holy places. He had a liberal attitude towards all religions. He went on to lay the foundation of a new religion- Din-e-Ilahi. He founded this religion to create a unified social order which could transcend the difference based on religion.



Din-e-Ilahi was based on the basic principles of the major religions such as Hinduism, Islam and Parsi faith. Though his religion failed and hence, had to be abolished soon. If Akbar could have succeeded in propagating his religion, he could have created a unified social order which could endure differences based on religion.

Akbar-the Expansionist: - After Akbar had established the Mughal Empire in the northern India; he commenced the expansion of his territorial boundary to the southern part of India. As a result, such was the might of his empire that it stretched from Sindh in the western part of India to Bengal in the eastern part of India and from present day Afghanistan to the Godavari basin in south. His tolerant and liberal attitude towards other faiths also helped him a great deal in the expansion of his territory.



Dyslexia: - He was dyslexic and was completely incapable of reading or writing as the years of his life progressed. But still with his most trusted ministers and loyal servants, he did attend to every single work of art and continuously dedicated his time towards learning by hearing. Despite his inability, he was the most educated emperor of India, which is embellished on the walls of time by his patronage to arts. Probably only due to his disability he collected and praised the artwork and poetry of his day. It is also remarkable to note, he administered the entire country being a dyslexic.



Akbar- the Architect: - He was fond of great architectural structures. During his reign, he built many great architectural masterpieces and this also became a legacy for the Mughal rulers. Akbar made

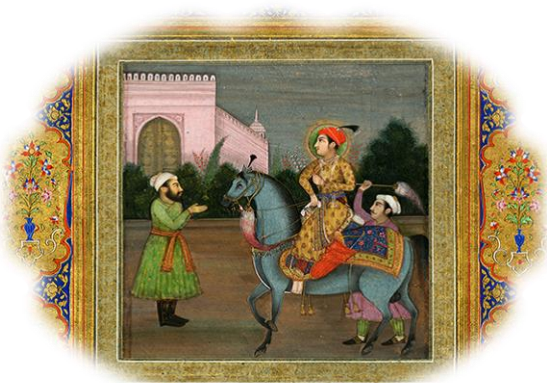
many historical monuments like Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, Buland Darwaza, and Lahore Palace etc.

Akbar's trustable- the Navratanas: - Akbar was a great patron of art and culture. Hence, his court was home to many extraordinary talents from the field of arts and culture. Among his trustable, he had a special category of men called as the Navratanas or the nine gems. Each of these nine gems was genius in his own right.



1. Abu'l Fazl -He was a chief advisor also the author of Akbarnama.
2. Birbal- he was a noble. He was well known for his wittiness.
3. Faizi – He was the poet laureate.
4. Mian Tansen – He was converted to Muslim from Hindu religion, he was a singer in Akbar's darbar. He was very skilled singer he can let the candles burst into flame with his singing.
5. Raja Todar Mal -He was an Akbar's finance minister.
6. Raja Man Singh- He was a general in Akbar's darbar.
7. Abdul Rahim Khan-I-Khana- He was a poet and a noble in Akbar's darbar.
8. Fakir Aziao-Din
9. Mullah Do Piazza

Akbar and his son: -



Akbar had three sons two of them died when they were young. Jahangir, Akbar's son was against Akbar. He would have definitely killed Akbar but he missed the golden opportunity to kill his father which was fulfilled by his grandson Aurangzeb after some time. However some historians believe that it was Jahangir who poisoned Akbar to death.

Akbar- the Intellectual: - Having spent most of his childhood in exile and also being dyslexic, Akbar could read and write but he had a flair for learning and art. He always used to remain in the company of intellectuals and religious leaders. It was because of this only that his court was graced by the presence of the most extraordinary talented individuals of all the times. To keep himself ahead of times, he continuously involved himself in the process of knowledge acquisition through whatever means.



Akbar-the Hunter: - Attribute of the persona of Akbar was his fearlessness due to which he became a hunter. His courage made hunting a passion for him and his derived great pleasure from hunting. Initially, he was accompanied by his trustable when he went for hunting but later he started going alone for hunting. He also liked to keep wild animals as pets. He relished hunting lions, cheetahs, black-bucks, tigers and also elephants sometimes.



Akbar- the Statesman: - Akbar was more than an able administrator in the sense that he could foresee that the path for future of his kingdom lied in creating a social order that could endure the differences of caste, creed, culture and religion.

He served as a people's king who had mastered the art of governing a nation-state well before the concept of nation-state came into being. It is because of this rule is known as the 'Golden period of Mughal Empire'.



Akbar and fate of people he doubted: - Akbar had appointed one person who is giving poison to those people whom Akbar disliked. It is been said by some historians that Akbar also died of eating the poison by mistake which was used to kill people.



Here is short lists that are killed are suspicious manner:

1. Bairam Khan
2. Zaman
3. Aasaf Khan
4. Son of Kamran
5. Makhdume Mulk
6. Shekh Abdurnabi
7. Fargundi
8. Muizul Mulk
9. Hazi Ibrahim
10. Shah Mansur
11. Mansingh
12. Some Mullahs

Coinage: - Akbar the great was the greatest innovator as far as coinage and currency is concerned. Akbar's innovative system is the foundation of India's numismatic history. Before the reign of Akbar, the coinage system was both ineffective, and almost inexistent, since both his predecessors were bent of conquest and lacked administrative intelligence.



But in Akbar's long reign of 50 years, he perfected the coinage and currency system, which marked the golden age of his reign. The coins were of both square and circular in shape, minted in a heavily guarded manufactory in both silver and gold. The inscription in the coins promoted the glory of both religion and prosperity of the emperor. The tolerance of the emperor is shown in the coinage, which featured Hindu inscriptions as well. Also the patronage to arts of the emperor and the glory of the empire is personified by the calligraphy and portrayal of paintings inscribed in the coins.

Akbar-the Social Reformer: -



Akbar always promoted and propagated an ethical way of living life. He was very progressive in his thought as it is evident from his views on child marriage. Akbar vehemently opposed the idea of child marriage and also opposed the social norm which prevented widows from getting remarried. He also despised the practice of Sati tradition and in this regard, he took strong legislative steps to put the practice of this tradition to an end.

<http://www.osmeb.com/2013/06/top-10-unknown-akbar-facts-great-mughal.html>

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AKBAR-E-AZAM

Early Life:-

Akbar was born to the second Mughal Emperor Humayun and his teenaged bride Hamida Banu Begum on October 14, 1542 in Sindh. His ancestors included both Genghis Khan and Timur. With his parents in exile in Persia, little Akbar was raised by an uncle in Afghanistan, with help from a series of nursemaids. He practiced key skills like hunting, but never learned to read due to a learning disability.

Akbar Takes Power:-



Akbar ascended the Mughal throne at the age of 13, and became Shahanshah ("King of Kings"). His regent was Bayram Khan. At age of 18, Akbar dismissed the increasingly overbearing Bayram Khan and took direct control of the empire and army. Bayram was ordered to make the hajj to Mecca; instead, he started a rebellion against Akbar. The young emperor's forces defeated Bayram's rebels at Jalandhar. Rather than executing the rebel leader, Akbar mercifully allowed his former regent another chance to go to Mecca. This time, Bayram Khan went.

Intrigue and Expansion:-



Akbar also faced challenges to his authority from within the palace. The son of his nursemaid, a man called Adham Khan, killed an adviser in the palace

after the victim discovered that Adham was embezzling tax funds. Enraged both by the murder and by the betrayal of his trust, Akbar had Adham Khan thrown from the parapets of the castle. From that point forward, Akbar was in control of his court and country, rather than being a tool of palace intrigues. The young emperor set out on an aggressive policy of military expansion, both for geo-strategic reasons and as a way to get troublesome warrior away from the capital.

Akbar's Governing Style:-

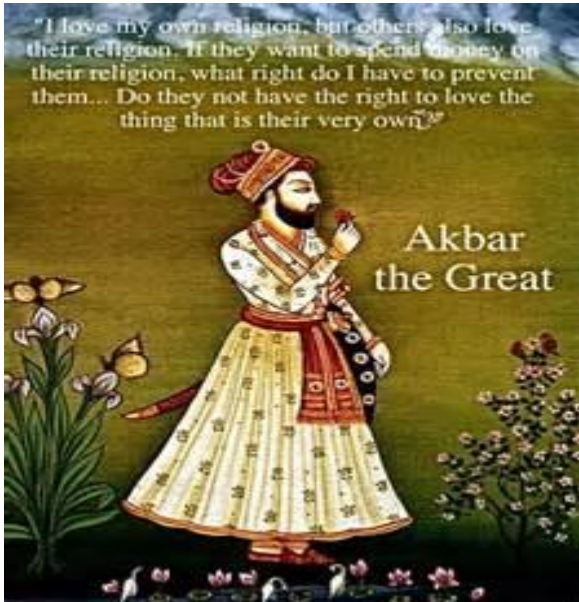
In order to control his vast empire, Akbar instituted a highly efficient bureaucracy. He appointed military governors, over the various regions; these governors answered directly to him. As a result, he was able to fuse the individual fiefdoms of India into a unified empire that survived until 1868. Akbar was personally courageous, willing to lead the charge in battle. He enjoyed taming wild cheetahs and elephants. This courage and self-confidence allowed Akbar to initiate novel policies in government, and to stand by them over objections from more conservative advisers and courtiers.



Matters of Faith:-

From an early age, Akbar was raised in a tolerant milieu. Although his family was Sunni, two of his childhood tutors were Persian Shias. As an emperor, Akbar made the Sufi concept of Sulh-e-Kuhl, or "peace

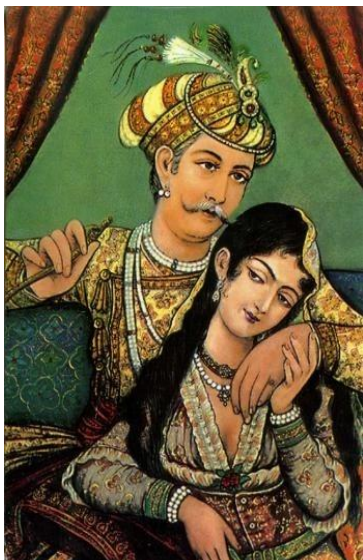
to all," a founding principle of his law.



Akbar displayed remarkable respect for his Hindu subjects and their faith. Akbar in 1563 repealed a special tax placed on Hindu pilgrims who visited sacred sites, and in 1564 completely repealed the *jizya*, or yearly tax on non-Muslims. What he lost in revenue by these acts, he more than regained in good-will from the Hindu majority of his subjects. He loved to meet with learned men and women of all faiths to discuss theology and philosophy. From the female Jain guru Champa to Portuguese Jesuit priests, Akbar wanted to hear from them all.

Matter of Marriage:-

His first marriage in 1562 was to Jodha Bai or Harkha Bai, who was a Rajput princess from Amber. Akbar had 36 wives of various ethnic and religious background.



Foreign Relations:-

Akbar solidified his rule over northern India, and extended his power south and west to the coast. Initially Portuguese approach to India had been "all guns blazing," they soon realized that they were no match militarily for the Mughal Empire on land. The two powers made treaties, under which the Portuguese were allowed to maintain their coastal forts, in exchange for which they promised not to harass Mughal ships that set out from the west coast carrying pilgrims to Arabia for the hajj. Akbar even formed an alliance with the Catholic Portuguese to punish the Ottoman Empire, which controlled the Arabian Peninsula at that time. Akbar maintained more enduring relations with other empires. The Mughal Empire was such a rich and important potential trading partner that various European monarchs sent emissaries to Akbar including Elizabeth I of England and Henry IV of France.

Akbar's Death:

In October of 1605, the 63-year-old Emperor Akbar suffered a serious bout of dysentery. After being sick for three weeks, he passed away at the end of that month. The emperor was buried in a beautiful mausoleum in the royal city of Agra.



The Legacy of Akbar the Great:

Akbar's legacy of religious toleration, firm but fair central control and liberal tax policies that gave commoners a chance to prosper established a precedent in India that can be traced forward in the thinking of later figures such as Mohandas Gandhi. His love of art led to the fusion of Indian and Central Asian/Persian styles that came to symbolize the height of Mughal achievement, in forms as varied as miniature painting and grandiose architecture. Akbar the Great showed the rulers of all nations everywhere that tolerance is not weakness, and open-mindedness is not the same thing as indecisiveness. As a result, he is honored more than four centuries after his death as one of the greatest rulers in human history.

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