



VALLEY OF THE SAINTS

Craft Culture Documentation

Third Year Bachelor of Design 2024-25



MVPS's Sharadchandraji Pawar College of Architecture, Nashik

Aurangabad

Location

The tomb is located in the city of Khuldabad, in the district of Aurangabad, 24 kilometres (15 min) from Aurangabad. It is located in the south-eastern corner of the complex of the dargah of Sheikh Zainuddin.

About Tomb

Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in the little town of Khuldabad, near Aurangabad in the Indian state of Maharashtra. The Emperor was a pious man of austere habits and hated ostentation. His simple tomb, open to the sky, is a lesson in humility. The Tomb of Aurangzeb, the last influential Mughal emperor, is located in Khuldabad, Aurangabad district, Maharashtra, India. In notable contrast to other Mughal tombs, which are large monuments of Mughal architecture, including the Taj Mahal, at his own direction Aurangzeb is buried in an unmarked grave at the complex of the dargah or shrine of Sheikh Zainuddin.



HISTORY

Courtyard View

The emperor had made all the arrangements for his burial during his lifetime. His deep-rooted faith in Islam meant that he would not allow any grand mausoleum to be constructed above his grave. A simple red stone slab, three yards long, two yards wide, a few inches deep with a hollowed out centre marks the spot. The slab itself bears no inscription whatsoever, allowing a small portion of the grave to remain open to the sky. Here a small "sabza" shrub grows.

The grave is inside the "Dargah" or tomb complex, of Sheikh Zainuddin Shirazi, a Sufi saint of the Chishti order, who it is said, Aurangzeb felt deeply inspired by. The cost of the tomb is said to have been only 14 rupees and 12 annas.

The Nizams ruled over central India, including Khuldabad from 1748 to 1948. The tablet spells out the full royal title of Aurangzeb. It reads "Al-Sultan al-Azam wal Khaqan al-Mukarram Hazrat Abul Muzaffar Muhy-ud-Din Muhammad Aurangzeb Bahadur Alamgir I, Badshah Ghazi, Shahanshah-e -Sultanat-ul -Hindiya Wal Mughaliya". There is a platform over the tomb made of red stone, less than three yards in length (2743.2 mm). There is also a "cavity" in the middle which measures a "few fingers". The tomb has been covered with soil on which herbs grow. After his burial, Aurangzeb was given the title of "Khuld-makan" ("he whose abode is in eternity"). Lord Curzon later covered the site with marble and

surrounded it with a "pierced marble screen". The tomb is roofed by "the vault of the sky". The gateway and the domed porch were added in 1760.





From Architectural Point Of View

Construction of tomb started on 4th march 1707. Architect was Azam Shah. The tomb is surrounded by a perforated marble "jaali" screen. This was placed here in 1921 by the Nizam of Hyderabad at the suggestion of the erstwhile British Viceroy, Lord Curzon. Inside, the tomb is spotless, covered in a white cloth with an opening in the middle. In one corner is a large marble tablet, also placed here by the Nizam of Hyderabad. The emperor had made all the arrangements for his burial during his lifetime. His deep-rooted faith in Islam meant that he would not allow any grand mausoleum to be constructed above his grave.

On the Southeastern corner of the courtyard within a marble-walled enclosure are 3 more graves. One of these are Zainuddin Shiraz tomb.

Two of these are close together and have marble headstones. These are of Aurangzeb's son Azam Shah and his wife.

Golden Door

On the north-eastern corner is a green domed structure. Within it is a very precious relic of Islam. Zainuddin had brought with him from Iran a cloak belonging to the Prophet (Paigambar). This is carefully preserved inside and shown to visitors every year on the 12th Rabi-ul-awal (the third month of the Islamic Hijri calendar) (9th october).



