

SOME ANCIENT GARDENS OF LAHORE

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SOME ANCIENT GARDENS OF LAHORE

As late as April 1885, when Lady Hasrriot Dufferin, wife of Lord Dufferin, the Governor-General of India, visited Lahore, she was greatly impressed by the gardens of this city. In a series of letters written to her mother in England, she expressed here great appreciation of the city of Lahore in a touching way. She called Lahore a city of trees, flowers and fields where, when walking through the city, one feels as strolling through gardens one after another, each specialised for its flowers or fruits. She was aspecially impressed by a five miles long garden which encircled the entire walled city. Lady Dufferin was not the only foreigner who was impressed by the beauty of Lahore which its gardens presented. Many European travellers who visited Lahore during the hey-days of Mughal Empire are full of praise of its gardens, parks and palaces. They have rightly called Lahore a City of Gardens.

Lady Dufferin did not see Lahore at its best. The city, its palaces, parks and gardens had already suffered a lot at the hands of Sikhs. Majority of the gardens were converted into fields. Their pavilions were denuded of all their valuable artistic veneering and its palace were deserted and demolished. The War of Independence in 1857 had further aggravated the condition of this city. What Lady Dufferin saw in 1885 was actually the ghost of Lahore of the days of Akbar, Jahangir or Shahjahan.

Lahore has always been a city of gardens and parks. Ever since history dawned on the city of Lahore, we hear about its beauty and wealth. The fertile land of the Punjab and the nourishing water of the river Ravi are at their best at Lahore. History has not presserved much about Lahore prior to the coming of Mughals in the early days of the 16th century. We first hear about Lahore during the invasions of Mahmud of Ghazna (387-421 A.H./997-1030 A.D.) when Lahore appears to have been an insignificant town. The capital of the province of Lahore (Punjab) has been mentioned to be at Mandhakur near Sialkot. But soon, Lahore city rose to prominence

with its full potentials. We know that only about two hundred years afterwards Qutub-ud-Din Aibak (the first Muslim Emperor of Pakistan and India, 1206-1210 A.D.) selected Lahore to be his main seat of residence despite the fact that Delhi was his capital. Nevertheless, during Ghaznavid, Ghaurid, Slave, Tughlaq, and Lodhi dynasties (412-932 A.H./1021-1526 A.D.) Lahore remained a halting post on way to Delhi. It appears that either these dynasties had no love for gardens or whatever they did for development of gardens and parks at Lahore and elsewhere has since long vanished. Even literature and history are silent on this issue.

Pre-Mughal Gardens

During the period 1021-1526 A.D. i.e. before coming of the Mughals, we read about only six gardens at Lahore all extinct today. All these gardens were attached with mausoleums of saints and kings. About the lay-out of these earlier gardens we know practically nothing. What we know about them is the localities where they had once existed. But it is not certain whether the gardens existed prior to the construction of tombs therein or that first the tombs were constructed and gradually gardens grew around them. There must have been gardens attached with palaces and residences of nobility as well. Similarly, there must have been public parks and pleasure gardens. But we do not possess any information about them.

Bagh-e-Malik Ayyaz

Malik Ayyaz was the favourite slave, a General and an administrator of Mahmud of Ghazna. After the death of Mahmud (421 A.H./1030 A.D.), Masud appointed Ayyaz as General and *Qazi-ul-Quzzat* of Lahore under Majdud, his son. As Governor, Ayyaz gave Lahore a prominence which the city never lost again. In place of Mandhakur, he selected Lahore as capital of the province. He is credited to have founded the city of Lahore as is clear from the following couplet of Khair Ullah Fida.

بانیے او ایاز محمود است
زین بنا حسن و عشق مقصود است

The authors of *Hadiqa-tul-Aqleem* and *Khulasa-tut-Tawarikh* agree that Ayyaz expanded the city and built a *pucca* fort. Though scholars differ as to

when Ayyaz died (433 or 449 A.H.), but all agree that he died in Lahore and was buried here amidst a garden. This garden was existing as late as the unfortunate Tripartite Sikh Rule at Lahore. When Ranjit Singh came in power he demolished this garden and built here a new mint and a few houses. On account of this the area was later on known as a *New Taxal* (Mint). Today, all vestiges of this grand garden are gone. Only the grave of the beloved General of the first Muslim conqueror of Pak-o-Hind Sub-continent is situated inconspicuously at a point of old city where *Taxali Bazar, Kasera Bazar, Sooha Bazar etc.* meet near *Rang Mahal*. Til 1944 there was a big well nearby which, according to Mohammad Din Fauq, was meant to irrigate this garden. Dr. Abdullah Chaghatai in his "Historical Mosques of Lahore" (Urdu) tells us that in 1947 not far from this point and just at the back of the Golden Mosque was exposed a *baoli* ... or a stepped-well and a tank (both now filled up) belonging to the period of Sher Shah Suri. It is not certain whether or not this *baoli* and tank were situated within Bagh-e-Malik Ayyaz.

Bagh-e-Zanjani

The earliest garden in Lahore about which we have any information is Bagh-e-Zanjani. Dara Shikoh in his *Sakina-tul-Aulya* writes that Hazrat Mian Jeeo (Main Mir) spent one day in meditation in Zanjani Bagh. But where was this garden? There are two renowned Zanjani saints who had lived before Dara Shikoh. They are Shah Hussain Zanjani who is buried in Chah Miran (died 1039 A.D.) and Sayed Yaqub Zanjani Sadar Diwan (a contemporary of Shah Hussain Zanjani) whose tomb is in between Mayo Hospital and Sarai Ratan Chand. Consensus of opinion of scholars is that Bagh-e-Zanjani was in Chah Miran where till Sikh period the tomb of the famous saint was situated amidst a spacious garden. It is also not clear whether the garden referred to by Dara Shikoh was laid down as early as the times of Mahmud or Masud of Ghazna or was planted later on. Even about the lay-out of this garden we do not know anything.

Bagh Shah Ismail

Shah Ismail came to Lahore in 1021 A.D. and died in 1056 A.D. His inconspicuous tomb is now situated on the Hall Road, Rai Kanahya Lal in

his History of Lahore (Urdu) writes that during Muslim period there was a large garden attached with this tomb. With the passage of time some rich people encroached upon the garden land and built their residences on it. Consequently, the area started to be known as Lakhi Mohalla. During the last days of Mughal Empire and anarchaic Sikh rule, this locality was deserted. Himmat Kumhar, a resident of Mozang, converted this locality partly into residential area and partly into a beautiful garden which was named after him as Bagh Himmat Kumhar. Finally, this garden too was sold out and in its place was built the residence of Mr. Hall, the then Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. The original garden is supposed to have covered an area now occupied by Cathedral School, Roman Catholic Church, E. Plommer's Buildings etc.

Bagh Qutub-ud-Din Aibak

Qutub-ud-Din Aibak was the first real Muslim ruler of Pakistan and India. He ascended the throne after the death of Shihab-ud-Din Ghauri in 1205 A.D. Despite the fact that Delhi was his capital, Aibak assumed the crown in Lahore, thereafter usually lived in here and finally, in 1210 A.D., died here while playing polo. He was buried here and his grave is now found on Aibak Road, off Anarkali.

There is no record to prove that here lay some garden around his grave. We only know that when his son-in-law and successor Sultan Shamas-ud-Din Iltutmash visited Lahore in 1215 A.D., he ordered a befitting mausoleum to be constructed over his grave. It will not be too rash to presume that the mausoleum of this first Muslim ruler of Indo-Pakistan was situated amidst a spacious garden. In 1961 Some excavations were carried out around the grave of Aibak in order to determine the limits and layout of the original mausoleum and the garden. From Muntakhab-but-Tawarikh we only know that the mausoleum was made of white marble and that till Timurid dynasty people used to visit it. Even as late as 1773 there used to be held an annual fair here. Now the Department of Archaeology has re-built a beautiful mausoleum over his grave with a small garden attached with it.

Bagh-e-Shah Kaku Chishti

Shaikh Kaku or Shah Kaku died in Lahore in 882 A.H./1477 A.D., during the reign of Sultan Bahlol Lodhi. His tomb is situated in Mohalla Dara Shikoh near Sultan Sarai. On east of this tomb, there used to be a beautiful garden which was destroyed during the wars between Nawab Shah Nawaz Khan, Governor of Lahore and Ahmad Shah Abdali. Till 1864 crops used to be grown in this garden. Near this garden once stood the famous *Masjid Shahid Gunj* which later on became a source of bloody strife between Muslims and Sikhs of Lahore.

Bagh-e-Daulatabad

Daulat Khan Lodhi was the Governor of Lahore during the reign of Ibrahim Lodhi (923-932 A.H./1517-1525 A.D.). It was he who invited Babur to invade Pakistan and India.

After Malik Ayyaz, Daulat Khan Lodhi did a lot to improve and develop Lahore. He planned a fortified locality (Mohalla) somewhere near Mozang and named it Daulatabad after his own name. He also built a grand garden and a large Sarai both after his own name and a 'baoli' where, according to Dara Shikoh, Mian Mir occasionally used to go and meditate. Nothing is known about these places now. Dara Shikoh says that this 'baoli' was near old *Idgah*. Noor Ahmad Chishti (Tehqiqat-e-Chishti) places this *Idgah* near Railway Station and Fauq thought that all these were somewhere near Buddhoo-ka-Awa on G.T.Road.

This is all that is known about gardens of Lahore before coming of the Mughals in the city.

MUGHAL GARDENS

It was during Mughal period (1526-1799) that Lahore became one of the three leading cities of Pakistan and India. All Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan, and some Mughal princes like Kamran and Dara Shikoh had special liking for Lahore. Mughals had realized the strategic importance of this city *vis-a-vis* their Central Asian policy. This is why they devoted full attention to make this city militarily invulnerable, economically self-sufficient and aesthetically well worth of royal residences.

Mirza Kamran was the first Mughal prince who took up his residence in this city and beautified it with palaces and gardens. Akbar lived here well nigh 15 years (1584-1598) and gave full attention towards the development of the city. Under his orders, here at Lahore Mulla Ahmad completed his *Tarikh-i-Alfi*, Faizi composed his *Mathnavi Nal-o-Daman* and Badauni translated *Ramayana*. Jahangir too had a love for Lahore. In 1622 he made Lahore his *Darul-Saltanat* and finally, when he died in 1627, was buried in the same city. His Queen Noor Jahan also preferred to live and die in Lahore.

Shahjahan was born in Lahore. He also gave full attention to beautify the city of his birth. Lahore expanded far and wide. New localities grew up. Gardens, palaces and mosques were built. His eldest son Dara Shikoh spent much of his time in Lahore. He was a disciple of Saint Mian Mir whom he used to call Mian Jeeo.

Due to political conditions in South India, Aurangzeb Alamgir could not give much attention to Lahore. But still, he found time to visit this city twice and gave to it one of the largest mosques in the world.

After the death of Aurangzeb (1707) Lahore was never the same again. Weakening of Mughal power at the centre had its effect on this city too. There was a gradual decline in every walk of life. With the coming of the Sikhs ensued the darkest period of the city of Lahore in particular and the Punjab in general.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MUGHAL GARDENS

Mughals used to love gardens. In Delhi, Agra, Lahore and Kashmir, they developed many beautiful gardens. They dug canals, cut jungles and imported fruit trees, flowers, and vegetables from Iran and Central Asia. They brought with them a good taste for architecture and architectural decorations reflecting the traditions of Iran, Turan and other countries of Central Asia. Their gardens at Lahore, as elsewhere in Pakistan and India, reflect their Central Asian background.

During the Mughal period almost every new-comer from Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia preferred to settle in Lahore. Even they who had long settled elsewhere preferred to have some property in Lahore. Late Prof Shujauddin once wrote that as compared to Delhi and Agra, climate of

Lahore was closer to that of Iran, Khurasan and countries of Central Asia. This is why many new comers from these parts preferred to settle here. Whatever the reason might had been, Mughal Emperors, princes, nobles etc, built here palaces, 'havelis', mosques, gardens and mausoleums more than in any other city of Pakistan and India. As the love of Mughal mobility grew for Lahore, the walled city was found too small to accommodate them. Special localities sprang up particularly along the river banks. Begumpura, Baghbanpura, Moghalpura, Ichra (*Anchehra*), Mozang, Shahdara, Mohalla Dara Shikoh, Mohalla Zain Kokaltash, Nawan Kot, etc. are all extensions of Lahore city during Mughal period. All these localities were walled suburbs having their own palaces, gardens, mosques and mausoleums.

There were various types of gardens which developed under the Mughals. Almost all types were found in Lahore. Majority of the Mughal gardens were attached with palaces and 'havelis' of emperors, princes, nobles and rich people. Unfortunately, no such garden has survived. It is difficult to say how far the garden restored in Old Fort Lahore are according to the original lay-out. The present shape was given by Sir John Marshall. Another type of gardens was meant for resting and halting of royal retinue when on the move. Among such gardens are the Shalamar Garden at Lahore, Faroodgah-i-Shahinshahan-i-Mughalia at Wah, Nasim Bagh in Kashmir etc. The third was mausoleum-gardens such as one now surrounds Jahangir's tomb. Then there were pleasure-gardens of princes and nobels. Such gardens had pavillions or 'baradaris' in the centre. Several of these (such as Bagh-e-Kamran, Bagh-e-Dilkusha, Bagh-e-Dilaram, Bagh-e-Dilamez, Bagh-Qasim Mehdi Khan, Bagh Moman Ishaq-Baz etc.) once existed on either bank of the river Ravi. Mughals were also fond of having special gardens reserved for special fruits. Many such gardens were in Lahore as well. Thus there was an Angoori (Grape) Garden, a Gulabi (Rose) Garden, a Badami (Almond) Garden, and Anar (Pomegranate) Garden, Nakhla (Date) Garden etc. in Lahore. Last of all were the city parks developed mainly by the British. One such garden once encircled the entire walled city of Lahore. Its circuit was about 5 miles or 8 kilometres. Lady Dufferin in 1885 was wonder struck by the length of this garden. It existed in some form or the other as late as 1947.

But since, then it has completely vanished. It is now being revived wherever possible.

Alsmot all Mughal gardens, except public parks, were walled enclosures. These were always either square or rectangular. A thick high wall with one or more monumental gateways used to surround them. In mausoleum-gardens there was usually a mosque and its *jawab*. The entrance gateways to these gardens were always bedecked with colourful mosaic tiles and stone in-lay on the exterior and with *gulkari* or painting and *gachkari* or stucco relief in the interior. At least one such gateway (Chauburji) is known to have four corner towers. Usually, the boundary wall had four corner towers or kiosks and bastions at regular intervals. Pavillions, and other buildings, wherever provided, were characteristic of Mughal style.

A typical garden proper was usually divided into *Chahar Chaman* pattern i.e. into four plots each sub-divided into further four or sixteen divisions. Paved pathways or *Khayabans* used to divide various plots. Invariably, water channels with fountains and tanks were provided at regular intervals. Wherever there were terraced gardens, cascades and *sawan-bhadun* were also added. Persian wheels, within or outside the boundary walls were provided for irrigation purpose. Water for fountains was made to run in open drains placed on top of boundary walls. For Shalamar, a special canal was dug to bring water from the river Ravi.

In palacial gardens, there were always two sectors i.e., separate female-garden and male-garden. The gardens for temporary halts of the royalty had always provision for royal residence and baths or 'hamam'. For their choice of fruit trees and flowers, Mughals were very selective. Wherever possible, they imported seeds and saplings from Iran, Afghanistan and from various countries of Central Asia.

A complete list of Mughal gardens which once existed in Lahore is impossible to give here. I shall discuss only a few most important ones. At present only the gardens of Shalamar and Jahangir's tomb can be seen in somewhat original lay-out. The gardens in Lahore Fort are also well nigh the original plans. Gardens around the tombs of Noor Jahan, Asaf Jah etc. are

derelict. The splendid gardens which were once attached with Chauburji Gateway and Gulabi Bagh Gateway have vanished entirely.

GARDENS OF THE PERIOD OF BABUR AND HUMAYUN

Naulakha Bagh

Dara Shikoh has mentioned one Naulakha Garden in Lahore. Majority of scholars think that this was the garden built by Ali Mardan Khan over an area of 200 bighas of land. However, Mohammad Latif in his History of the Punjab regarded it as Bagh-e-Kamran. Mohammad Din Fauq, though himself confused, has concluded on good grounds that the garden belonged to Kamran and not to Ali Mardan Khan. There is also some confusion as to its site. Kanahya Lal and Fauq placed it near Faiz Bagh, i.e. a little north of the Railway Station. According to Latif this garden extended from Naulakha to Ravi. Dara Shikoh informs us that Hazart Mian Mir used to go there with his friends. As late as 1864, its 'baradari' was standing. By 1923, every thing had gone. Latif also says that Jahangir kept here as prisoner his rebellious son Khusru.

Bagh-e-Kamran

This is one of the earliest Mughal monuments now extant anywhere in Pakistan and India. Originally, it was at quite a distance from the river Ravi but now it forms an island of the same river. Only part of the central pavilion or 'baradari' has escaped the ravages of time. The entire garden, which was one of the earliest Mughal gardens laid out in Pakistan and India, has entirely vanished. In 1960, when a diversion was being dug up on the west of this pavilion a substantial plan of the original garden with pathways, fountains, central tanks and an arched bridge were discovered on the west and south sides. But all these could not be preserved. The lay-out is again being probed by the Lahore Development Authority with a purpose to reconstruct the pavilion, recreate the original garden and convert this spot into a tourist resort.

Being the first of the type, Bagh-e-Kamran was a big garden containing a central pavilion as well as palaces, audience halls etc. It appears that till the time of Jahangir this garden was reserved for royalty only. In 1015 A.H./1606 A.D. Jahangir stayed in this garden and supervised the expedition against

his rebellious son Khusru. All companions of Khusru were hanged on either side of the road extending from Bagh-e-Kamran to Lahore Fort. Whenever Jahangir left for Kashmir, on way he usually used to stay in this garden. This garden was definitely built in the life time of Babur i.e., between 1526-1530. Someone has beautifully written about it:

بکام دل چوں احسن شادمانی
بباغ کامران کن کامرانی

Dara Shikoh, in *Sakina-tul-Aulya* informs us that once there was a building built in the centre of a huge tank which was submerged in water during his time. During recent excavations conducted around this pavilion, it has been proved that Kamran had built this central pavilion of his garden in the centre of a huge water-tank. The pavilion was reached by a cause-way which is still intact. Similar pavilion and a tank were later on built at Hiran Minar at Sheikhupura. This 'baradari' is a double-storey building made of bricks. Internally, it is tastefully decorated with paintings. Kamran irrigated this garden with a canal which he dug across the river Ravi. South of this canal was Bagh-e-Andjan.

GARDENS OF AKBAR'S PERIOD

Bagh-e-Dilafroze

Only Jahangir, in his *Tuzk* refers to this garden. In 1015 A.H./1606 A.D. when he left Lahore on way to Kabul, his first halt was in Bagh-e-Dilafroze on the bank of river Ravi. He stayed there for four days. He also ordered extension in its plan. His four days stay here indicates that this was not an ordinary garden. There must had been enough pavilions, palaces and other buildings fit to accommodate the royal retinue. Jahangir came to power in 1605 and visited this garden in 1606. Naturally, this garden was built much earlier either in the times of Akbar or Humayun.

Bagh-e-Khan-e-Azam

Shamasuddin Atga Khan-e-Azam was the foster father of Akbar and was the real father of Yusuf Mohammad Khan Kokaltash and Mirza Aziz Koka. Princes Khusru and Murad were his sons-in-law. He lived in Lahore in a grand palace and a garden. Dara Shikoh in *Sakina-tul-Aulya* writes that this

garden was situated near the tomb-garden of Sheikh Johar. He also informs that in the garden of Khan-e-Azam was situated the palace of Prince Murad. Locations of both these gardens are not known today.

Bagh-e-Andjan

Kalej Khan Andjani was a resident of Andjan. In 1010 A.H./1601 A.D. he was made 'Subedar' of Lahore first by Akbar and then by Jahangir. He was also father-in-law of Prince Khusru. He built in Lahore a palace and a garden. On the authority of Dara Shikoh we know that this garden was situated on the south of the canal which Mirza Kamran dug for his garden across the river Ravi. During the times of Dara Shikoh, buildings inside the garden were already in a dilapidated condition.

Raju Bagh

It is believed that Raju Bagh was somewhere near Ichra (*An-chehra*) and Daulatabad. Raju (or Raj Muhammad) was a rich Sayyid of Lahore. He held a *mansab* of 5000 during the time of Akbar but was hanged by Jahangir in 1015 A.H./1606 A.D. on account of his complicity with Khusru. Nothing is known about this garden now.

Bagh Malik Ali Kotwal

Dara Shikoh also mentions about a garden of Malik Ali Kotwal who was killed by the orders of Akbar. No body knows today where this garden was situated.

Bagh Mirza Nizamuddin Ahmad

Mirza Nizamuddin Ahmad was the author of famous *Tabqat-i-Akbari* which he completed in 1593 A.D. He died at Lahore at the age of 45. He often lived in Lahore where he had his house and a garden. Mohammad Din Fauq opines that this garden was on the right bank of the Ravi.

Bagh Zain Khan Kokaltash

Zain Khan Kokaltash was the father-in-law of Prince Salim. In Lahore he built a grandiose palace and some 'havelis' outside Mochi Gate. This was known as Mohallah Zain Khan during Akbar's period. There was also a beautiful garden which was decorated with terraces, pavillions, corridors,

arches, pathways, and fountains. It had a boundary wall with monumental gateway which, according to Nur Ahmad Chishti (Tehqiqat-i-Chishti) was existing in about 1820, the greatest innovation of this garden was *Sawan-bhadun* or a water-fall lit from behind through a series of pigeonholes. This was later on copied in Shalamar Garden. This garden and palaces of Zain Khan were destroyed by Sikhs even before Ranjit Singh came to power. In Ranjit Singh's time the site was already known as Maidan Zain Khan.

GARDENS OF JAHANGIR'S PERIOD

Bagh Mirza Moman Ishaq Baz

Mirza Moman Ishaq Baz probably lived during the time of Akbar and Jahangir. He built a beautiful garden on the right bank of Ravi. Nearby were hunting-grounds of Jahangir. Jahangir, in his Tuzk, praises this garden very much. In 1621 he stayed in this garden for a few days. In Sakina-tul-Aulya, Dara Shikoh mentions that Hazrat Mian Mir (d. in 1635 A.D) casually used to stay in this garden with his friends. At present there are no traces of this garden.

Bagh Shamasuddin

Shah Shamasuddin was a famous saint of Akbar and Jahangir's period. He died in 1021 A.H./1612 A.D. Shahjahan, as Prince Khurram, built a mausoleum over his grave. Later on Jahangir built a grand garden around this mausoleum. It was flourishing till the times of Muhammad Shah. During Sikh period the garden vanished. The tomb is now in the vicinity of the Government House.

Bagh-e-Dilkusha (Tomb of Jahangir)

This mausoleum-garden has a long but disputed history. Latif names it Bagh-e-Dilmaiz or Bagh-e-Dilkusha. Fauq identifies it with Bagh Mehdi Qasim Khan who founded it in 1557 A.D./965 A.H. during Akbar's period. Since Qasim Khan had no issue, Noor Jahan occupied it and named it Bagh-e-Dilkusha. Today, it is simply known as Jahangir's Tomb. But it is sure that the lay-out of this garden might have been copied from the earlier one. Its boundary wall appears to be of Shahjahan's period. Spread over an area of 22,50,000 square feet (1500X1500 feet or approximately one hundred bighas

of land) this walled garden has now a central podium (325X325 feet) on which stands the beautiful mausoleum of Emperor Jahangir who died in 1627. Surrounding garden is divided into 16 flower-beds of equal size with an ornamental tank at each intersection. Brick paved pathways mark the division of plots. There are causeways and ornamental fountains. Water chanel runs along each pathway. All along the top of the boundary wall runs a broad water-channel fed from four large wells one each on the outer side of the boundary wall.

The 50' high double-storey gateway is decorated with marble inlay and *qulkari* (painting) on the west. There were three pavilions one each in the middle of eastern, southern, and northern sides of the boundary wall. The pavilion and wall on the eastern side have been washed away by river floods. At four corners are four towers and on the exterior of the wall there are semi-circular bastions at regular intervals. In the centre of the garden, where there now stands the magnificent mausoleum there must have originally been a pavilion or *baradari*.

Mir Abdul Aziz Zanjani Lahori wrote, in the period of Mohammad Shah, a long *qaseeda* in praise of palaces and gardens of Lahore.

About Dilkusha he writes

بر گلگشت نعیم از عبیرہ خواہی دلکش باغیست
کہ ہر گل از نظارہ رشک روئے حوریاں بینی
چو لیلی لالہ را خداں و مغرور و چچاں بینی
چو مجنوں بید مجنوں را دل افکار و تواں بینی
بیان سبزہ و این لالہ و این سایہ و این گل
نہ آرد آں لطافت ہا کہ وصفش (دریاں بینی

It is no place to discuss architectural details of the tomb itself. It will, however, not be out of place to mention here that the tomb of Jahangir is an architectural gem.

Bagh-e-Anarkali

Every body is familiar with the name of Anarkali and the tomb of Anarkali in Lahore. But a few people know that actually the name 'Anarkali' is derived from Anarkali Bagh which once stood around the present tomb of

Anarkali. All sober historians have outrightly rejected the existence of any personality with the name Anarkali. This Bagh-e-Anarkali is mentioned only by Dara Shikoh in his *Sakina-tul-Aulya*. Later on Maharaja Ranjit Singh held a darbar in this tomb in order to declare Kharrak Singh as Crown Prince. Maharani Nakain, mother of Kharrak Singh was cremated in this garden. According to researches of Maulana Ilmuddin Salik, the beloved wife of Jahangir (daughter of Zain Khan Koka, who was also mother of Prince Pervéz) and not some other lady with the name Anarkali, is buried here.

GARDENS OF SHAHJAHAN'S PERIOD

Faiz Bagh

There is only one reference to this garden by Dara Shikoh. In *Sakina-tul-Aulya* he writes that in Faiz Bagh, where there is the tomb of foster mother of Dil Aram, Hazrat Mian Mir used to meditate above a 'baoli'. Nothing, however, is known as to where this garden was situated and also who was Dil Aram. It is not certain whether the locality now known as Faiz Bagh outside *Do-morya-pul* is the same where Faiz Bagh was once situated.

Bagh Bilawal Shah

There is also a mention of Bagh Bilawal Shah on the left bank of the Ravi near Bhogiwal. Shah Bilawal died in 1636 during the reign of Shahjahan. Though the grave of Shah Bilawal was removed by the orders of Ranjit Singh on account of fear of flood, Bagh-Bilawal existed as late as 1884. According to Rai Kanahya Lal it was a walled garden and its entrance opened towards south on ancient road to Shalamar. In *Umdatut-Tawarikh*, it is mentioned that Ranjit Singh issued a special order for the unkeep of Bagh Shah Bilawal and Shalamar Garden. It was here that in 1843 Mahraja Sher Singh and his 12 years old son Partap Singh were killed. The main 'baradari' is still preserved.

Shalamar Garden

Shalimar, Shalamar or Shahlamar Garden was built by Ali Mardan Khan by the orders of Shahjahan at a cost of rupees eight lacs (including cost of canal) in one year and 4 months. Shahjahan visited this garden in 1637 A.D./1047 A.H. This is by far the best historical monument in Lahore.

Though every attempt is being made to recreate the original grandeur, today it is only a ghost of its former glory. It was a combined work of Ali Mardan Khan and Mula Ata-ul-Mulk. It is an oblong of 1650 feet by 730 feet divided into three terraces of unequal sizes, each 10 feet below the preceding one. These were named Faiz Bakhsh, (Hayat Bakhsh) and Farah Bakhsh. The central terrace measures only 200X730 feet, and itself has two levels. The upper and lower most terraces are divided into four squares each, each plot further sub-divided into four. Thus in all there are 16 square on each of these terraces divided by water-channels, brick-paved pathways and small tanks at the intersections of ducts. A 20 feet wide canal runs in the middle of the upper-most and lowermost terrace. The upper-most terrace has four pavilions one each for Sleeping Rooms of the Emperor, Bed Chambers of the Queen, Naqqar Khan and a *baradari* to look at the second terrace. The lower-most terrace, which provided the original entrance, has two main gates (each decorated with mosaic tiles) and one pavilion.

The most beautiful part of the Garden is its middle terrace. It has a central-tank fed from the main canal above through a honey-combed marble cascade. The over-flow is regulated through a three sided water-fall called *sawan-bhadun*. It used to be lit at night by lamps and made colourful at day by placing *guldastas* behind the waterfalls in decorative pigeon-holes. There are four pavillions on three sides of the central tank one each on the east and west and two on the north standing on either side of the *sawan-bhadun* cistern. In the centre of the tank is a marble platform called *Mahtabi*. In front of the marble cascade is a royal throne. When water from above flows in form of ripples over the honey combed surface of the cascade it creates a scene never to be forgotten. A Mughal princes (said to be Zebunnisa?) has expressed her feelings about it in the following verses:

اے آبشار نوحہ گراں بہر کیستی !
 چیں برجیں فگندہ ترا ندوہ چیتی ؟
 آیا چہ درد بود کہ چوں من تمام شب
 سر را بنگ می زنی و می گریستی

"O waterfall! for whose sake art thou weeping?

In whose sorrowful recollection hast thou wrinkled thy brows?

What pain was it that impelled thee, like myself, the whole night

To strike thy head against stone and to shed tears?"

The entire garden is enclosed by a high brick wall with polygonal corner towers. There is a Mughal *Hamam* or bath-suit of Turkish style. All pavilions, sleeping rooms, gateways, fountains, marble grills, cascades etc. are characteristic of Shahjahan's period. The entire garden has been tastefully laid out with fruit trees and seasonal flowers. Mir Abdul Aziz Zanjani of Lahore (of the Period of Mohammad Shah) praised Shalamar Garden in these verses:

ارم را گزندیدی شالہ مار شاہ را بستگر
کہ یک یک چمن صد صد چو خوان بانوان بینی
سحر ہر روز پر گلہائے الواں بنگری ز انسان
کہ وقت شام ہر شب پُر ز انجم آسمان بینی

Nakhla Wazir Khan

Very few people know that where there is Lahore Museum today, there once stood a spacious garden called Nakhla (Date-grove) of Wazir Khan. The central pavilion of this garden is still extant and is being repaired at considerable cost. Wazir Khan, a Governor of Lahore during Shahjahan's period, is well known for his beautiful Wazir Khan Mosque. He also built Pari Mahal in Rang Mahal area and Nakhlistan-i-Wazir Khan. When Ahmad Shah invaded Lahore he stayed in this garden. Ranjit Singh himself stayed in the pavilion of this garden. The garden was converted into a Sikh Cantonment during Sikh reign (1799-1849) when it was completely ruined. Its last date tree fell in 1974.

From Sakina-tul-Aulya of Dara Shikoh it becomes clear that earlier there was Bagh Murtaza Khan exactly where later on was built Wazir Khan's garden. Nearby was also another garden known as Bagh Hoshiar Khan. Till the time of Sikhs the famous *Qadmon-ka-Mela* used to be held in Nakhlistan-

i-Wazir Khan. Now this 'Fair of Steps' is held outside Lahori, Mochi and Delhi Gates.

Tomb of Badarudding Shah Alam Bokhari

Nawab Sa'ad Ullah Khan, Prime Minister of Shahjahan, built the green domed mausoleum of Badarudding Shah Bokhari and surrounded it with a spacious garden. It was situated near old Tehsil. Raja Sochit Singh Dogra (Ranjit Sing' reign) demolished this garden. In its place he built his own haveli. It was inside the walled city.

Tomb of Hazrat Sayed Mahmud

Similarly there was a grand garden on the west of Tomb of Hazrat Sayed Mahmud (died in 1640) which was destroyed during Sikh regime.

Chauburji Garden

There is a great confusion over the fact as to who built Chauburji Garden of which now only the beautiful entrance gate has survived. Many scholars have suggested the name of Zebunnisa Begum, daughter of Aurangzeb. But Maulana Ilmuddin Salik, in his book *Dukhtaran-i-Hind* has proved that Zebunnisa could not have built it. Instead, it was Jahan Ara Begum *alias* Begum Sahiba who got it built in 1056 A.H/1646 A.D. through one Mian Bai. Chandar Bhan Brahman, in his book *Chahar Chaman* says that Bagh Jahan Ara Begum was famous in Lahore as were Bagh-i-Dilkusha, Bagh-i-Dilamaiz, Bagh-i-Kamran, Bagh-i-Naulakha and Shalamar.

Judged from the beauty of its gate with three out of four glazed minarets, Bagh-i-Jahan Ara appears to have been only next to Shalamar Garden. Its boundaries used to extend to Nawan Kot (South), Miani (East), Pir Makki (North) and the river Ravi (West). In 1864 Noor Ahmad Chishti saw the extent remains of the boundary wall of this garden and some other buildings therein. Aurangzeb visited this garden in 1057 A.H/1647 A.D. and mentions therein water-tanks and other buildings.

Bagh-e-Asif Jah

Asif Jah was brother of Noor Jahan and father of Mumtaz Mahal. In 1625 A.D. he was made Governor of Lahore. Later on he was titled as Khan-e-Khanan. He was a very rich man. He built a huge 'haveli' near Nakhas Mandi inside Masti Gate. He died in Lahore in 1641 A.D.

By the orders of Shahjahan his mausoleum was constructed on the west of so-called Akbari Sarai beside Jahangir's tomb. The mausoleum stands amidst a walled garden having its entrances on the north and south.

The gates were decorated with mosaic tiles which were best in the Lahore. On the west was a mosque and on the east a pavilion now in dilapidated condition. The garden was of *Chahar Chaman* style. In the centre stands the magnificent octagonal mausoleum whose pear-shaped dome is the best in Punjab. The mausoleum rests on an octagonal podium on four sides of which there is each a *hauz* and a fountain. From these tanks irrigation channels go in four directions. On three sides, outside the boundary wall there are still extant three large wells originally meant for watering the garden.

This mausoleum and garden was completed in four years at a cost of twenty lakhs of rupees.

Bagh-e-Noor Jahan

After the death of Jahangir, Noor Jahan spent rest of her life in Lahore for 18 years. It is generally believed that she built her own residence adjoining Jahangir's and Asif Jaha's tombs. On its four sides she developed four small gardens, each 100X100 yards all collectively known as *Chahar Chaman* or Four Gardens. The whole was enclosed within a boundary wall so characteristic of Mughal gardens. It is believed that when she died in 1645 A.D. She was buried in the *Chahar Chaman*. The entire boundary wall, the beautiful garden and her palace have vanished. Only her mausoleum has survived in a dilapidated condition. There is hardly any other Mughal monument in Pakistan and India which has suffered so much at the hands of one of its ruling classes. The mausoleum which Noor Jahan built for herself in her life time in four years at a cost of three lakhs of rupees must have been reflective of her cultured and tasteful background. Though the description of

Noor Jahan's tomb as given in Zafar Nama Shahjahan by Maulvi Zaka Ullah Dehlvi (which he based on Shahjahan Nama by Inayat Khan Ashna) does not tally with the existing tomb, the mausoleum in its present state is a miniature copy of the tomb of Jahangir, her beloved husband. Accordingly, the mausoleum must have had similar garden around. According to Zafar Nama Shahjahan, on each of the four sides of the podium there was a water tank (7X9 yards), a mosque on the west, its 'Jawab' on the east and its entrance on the south. Now once again this garden is being developed.

Pervez Bagh

Parvez, son of Shahjahan and father-in-law of Dara Shikoh had built a garden in Lahore which, according to the consensus of opinion of scholars, was situated to the west of Kot Khawaja Saeed. Today the entire garden has vanished. Only a mausoleum called Gumbad-i-Pervez marks the position of this garden. According to Dara Shikoh, Hazrat Mian Mir occasionally used to meditate in this garden. Nearby once also stood Bagh Teja Singh. The locality was once known as Pervezabad.

Mushki Mahal

Nawab Mian Khan, son of Nawab Sa'ad Ullah Khan, Wazir of Shahjahan, beside his famous 'haveli', built a beautiful garden which was once famous for its water tanks, fountains, canals, cascades and terraced garden. It had a beautiful gateway and a central tank. It was situated near village Bhogiwal. It was also known as Mushki Mahal because a slave named Mushki is said to have built it. Inside, there was a small mosque and Jawab-i-Masjid. Nawab Mian Khan died in 1671 A.D. and was buried in the same garden. During Sikh period, this garden was re-christened as Bagh Raja Sochet Singh.

Bagh Abul Hasan and Bagh Khawaja Ayyaz

There are also references that around the tomb of Nawab Khawaja Abul Hasan Khan on south of Shalamar Road (Inside Railway Colony), there was once a beautiful garden. But today nothing is left. Similarly, there is nothing now left of the garden of Khawaja Ayyaz, contemporary of Ali Mardan Khan who built a mosque and a garden on the west of Shalamar. Only the mosque is now left which is near the tomb of Shah Hussain.

Bagh Nusrat Jang Bahadur

Near the Bagh of Abul Hasan, there was once another mausoleum-garden in which was buried Nawab Nusrat Bahadur who died in Lahore in 1645 A.D. Noor Ahmad Chishti writes that the walled garden spread over a piece of land measuring 40 Kanals. In its midst stood his domed mausoleum. There was also a mosque in it. Now only the tomb stands inside the Railway Workshop. It was used by General Court as his residence.

Bagh-e-Eeshan

There are references that Shahjahan gave one lac 'tankas' (rupees) to build a garden, a mosque and the mausoleum of Syed Khawaja Khawand Mahmud alias Hazrat Eeshan. It was a walled garden which was destroyed during Sikh rule by Ghulab Singh Bhowindia. The mausoleum still exists and, has recently been repaired thoroughly.

Bagh Ali Mardan Khan

Nawab Ali Mardan Khan, a trusted General and Wazir of Shahjahan, was a great engineer and an architect. In Kabul, Delhi, Kashmir Sodhra and Lahore he dug many canals, developed gardens and built palaces. His greatest work, however, is the Shalamar Garden. He died in 1067 A.H./1657 A.D. and was buried besides his mother. This tomb was situated in the garden of Amir-ul-Umara. In this garden was once a grand *hauz* or water-tank which was quite intact as late as 1863. Only the entrance gate and mausoleum are preserved inside the Railway Workshop.

GARDENS OF AURANGZEB'S PERIOD

Gulabi Bagh

This Garden was situated between Shalamar Garden and the University of Engineering and Technology. Today, only its magnificent tiled-gateway stands to witness the glory of this Rose Garden. It is said to have been made by one Sultan Baig who probably came to Pakistan in 1649 A.D./1059 A.H. and died in 1657 A.D. The garden was completed in 1655 A.D. and its name Rose Garden is recorded in an inscription on the Gateway. It is said that this garden was a large one and on four sides there were beautiful gateways. Besides, there were pavilions, arches, paved floors etc. A little way inside the gateway is the tomb of Dai Anga who appears to have died in 1082 A.H. or 1671 A.D.

There was also a spacious garden around the grave of Sheikh Sa'adi Balkhi who died in 1676 (1087 A.H) during Alamgir's regin.

Bagh-e-Mahabat Khan

Similarly, on west of Shalamar there was once a small garden (land: 2 bighas 3 kanals) called Bagh Mahabat or Mohabbat Khan. Inside the garden was a mausoleum popularly known as Tomb of Mahabat Khan. Historians differ as to whether this is the same Mahabat Khan who was Khan-e-Khanan during Jahangir's time or he was Ibrahim Mahabat Khan Hyderabad of Alamgir's time who died in Lahore in 1786 A.D. It was a walled-garden having pavillions, platforms, corner bastions, towers, tanks, fountains and paved pathways. There was also a small mosque on one side of it. Today, only parts of the enclosure walls and central platform with the grave remain.

Bagh Shah Chiragh

It is also believed that originally there was a small garden around the mausoleum of Shah Chiragh (died in 1657). Its brick paved pathways were seen by Maulvi Noor Ahmad Chishti in 1864. It was also a walled garden. The mosque and mausoleum are near the G.P.O.

Bagh Mulla Shah Badakhshi

Mullah Shah Badakhshi was a disciple of Mian Mir and a saint in his own right. Dara Shikoh was his disciple. He died in 1660 or 1661 in early days of Aurangzeb's reign. He was buried in a spacious walled garden situated on the west-south of Mian Mir's mausoleum. The garden had four towers at four corners and other towers at convenient places.

GARDENS OF LATER MUGHAL PERIOD

Although this was a very unstable and uncertain period, but Lahorites were not deterred from their love for gardens. New gardens continued to be planted by the nobles of Lahore. Following are a few most important gardens established during this period.

Bagh Begum Jan in Begumpura

Begumpura is after the name of Nawab Begum Jan, mother of Nawab Zakriya Khan (died in 1745 A.D.). She built here a palace which was almost a fort. It used to contain gardens, separate for ladies and for men. Today, nothing remains of them. The palaces and gardens were flourishing during Sikh regime but suffered heavily afterward.

Similarly, nearby there was a small garden with tank situated near the Sarwala Maqbara which was built by Sharfunnisa Begum, wife of Nawab Abdul Samad Khan and mother of Nawab Abdullah Khan, step brother of Nawab Zakriya Khan, ruler of Lahore.

Badami Bagh

Where there is now the General Bus Stand, there was once a great garden known as Badami Bagh. Latif says that it was after the name of a Mughal princess Gul Badam (Gul-Badan?). However, later on Ranjit Singh developed this garden very much by planting different fruit trees especially those of almonds i.e. 'badam'.

Besides, there were three other gardens in its suburb.

Three Gardens:

Pir Mohammad Abdalti also built a garden in 1756 A.D. alongwith his own mausoleum therein. Today only the mausoleum stands on east of the Government House. Similarly, Mir Manno (period Ahmad Shah) built in 1778 A.D. a walled-garden with a mausoleum of his brother Nawab Jani who died fighting with Ahmad Shah Durrani by Sayed Abdullah Khan, the famous King maker Sayed brother who was killed in 1720 A.D./1133 A.H.

SIKH PERIOD GARDENS

Sikh period was an accident of history, especially for the monuments of Lahore. Like every newly established dynasty, they too tried to build their monuments from the spoils of the monuments of conquered people. But they had no time either to start a style of their own or to rectify damages done to the Muslim monuments. For embellishing their own buildings they denuded almost every Mughal building in the city. They did not spare even mosques,

mausoleums and gardens. They took away costly marbles and red sand-stones veneering from these monuments, removed precious stones set in decorative panels and made ugly additions and alterations. The anarchy, which prevailed during this period, sent panic among the people. Wherever possible, people left their homes and 'havelis' and took refuge somewhere else. Gardens were also deserted. Majority of the Mughal gardens were never claimed back. In case of many, Sikh Sirdars occupied them and renamed them after their own names. Some new gardens were also founded, but nothing is known about the characteristics of a Sikh garden. More probably these were gardens in the sense that in each case the space was unwallled and garden was full of fruit trees grown without an order. There were seldom grassy plots, flower beds and pavilions. But all this is not certain. Here I give only names of a few famous gardens of Lahore during the Sikh period.

Bagh Maharaja Ranjit Singh, north of Roshanai Gate.

Hazuri Bagh, in front of Alamgiri Gate.

Bagh Raja Dhayan Singh, on old bed of the river Ravi.

Bagh Diwan Kirpa Ram, inside Mori Gate.

Bagh Misr Diwan Chand Zafar Jang of Gujranwala, west of Data Darbar (?).

Bagh Ventura or Kuri Bagh, near Munshi Chambers in Old Anarkali.

Bagh Sirdar Jawala Singh, on Shalamar Road.

Bagh Diwan Ratan Chand Dhariwala, outside Shahalami Gate.

Bagh Raja Dina Nath, near Ghorai Shah on way to Kot Khawaja Saeed.

Bagh Kanahya Lal Kampowala, near Mayo Hospital.

Bagh Bhai Mahan Singh, near Bagh Ratan Chand. It was considered to be the best Sikh garden in Lahore.

Bagh Sirdar Lehna Singh, near Shah Bilawal.

Bagh Raja Teja Singh, north of Gumbad-e-Pervez.

Bagh Khushal Singh, outside Masti Gate.

Bagh Sirdar Ratan Singh Garjakhia (Gujranwala), outside Shahalami.

Bagh Hari Singh Nalwa of Gujranwala, near Masjid Mai Lado. Remains of its *baradari* can still be seen on the Mission Road. These are under the charge of the National Council of Churches of Pakistan.

Bagh Moranwala, outside Mori Gate.

Bagh Rani Gul Begum, near Mozang.

Bagh Himmat Kumhar, on Hall Road.

Bagh Jamadar Khushhal Singh, in the vicinity of the Govt. House.

Bagh Thakar Dawara, on the old Ravi.

Bagh Chajju Bhagat, outside Shahalami.

Faiz Bagh of Raja Dina Nath, on way to Chah Miran.

BRITISH PERIOD GARDENS

Gol (Circular) Bagh

This was the largest recorded garden of Pakistan and India. It used to run all along the outer wall of the old walled city of Lahore, was approximately five miles long, and was broken only in front of 13 gates which gave access to the inner city. There were parks, plots, flower beds and fruit trees. The Lahorites used to spend their past time here. There were *Qissa Khawans* here and there. The garden won the praises of Lady H. Dufferin who visited Lahore in 1885. It is unfortunate that this garden, which British rulers planted, has been damaged by the Lahorites themselves during the last 42 years. One who has seen this garden in 1947 or before will never believe that here once existed a beautiful garden of the city. It is now being revived wherever possible.

Ram Bagh or New Shalamar built by Rai Pandat Khabar Dhan in 1890 on west of Nawan Kot.

Bagh Chhotal Lal built after 1850 on road from Government House to Mian Mir.

Lawrence Garden

Now-a-days it is called Bagh-e-Jinnah and is located on Shara-i-Quaid-i-Azam. It is still the largest garden in the country and covers an area of 112 acres. Its plantation was started in 1860 on a small piece of land. In 1868 the old Badami Bagh was sold out and its sale proceeds were spent on the extension of the Lawrence Garden. The huge garden is irrigated by a branch of Bari Doab Canal. It contains some 80000 trees and some 600 varieties of shrubs. After independence in 1947, a portion of it was redesigned and named Gulistan-e-Fatima. Another portion of it has also been redesigned on the pattern of Shalamar Garden. Within its premises there are Lawrence Hall (built in 1862) and Montgomery Hall (built in 1866)-now jointly used as Quaid-i-Azam Library. There are also Children Park, a Cricket Club, a Ladies Club, an Open Air Theatre, a beautiful mosque and Library, a restaurant, a botanical garden, an adjoining Zoo and several pleasure parks and walk-ways.

Minto Park

The area now occupied by Minar-e-Pakistan and its garden together with adjoining Sports Club was known as Minto Park before 1947. This park grew on what was known after 1849 as Fort Prade Ground. The earliest Polo match in Lahore was played on this ground sometime in early 1870's.

Soldier's Garden

This garden was laid out by a member of the Rattigan family behind the shrine of Data Ganj Bakhsh. As early as 1856 it was converted into a place of public resort, a fore-runner of Gymkhana. By 1924 it was already a deserted place and only a spacious swimming tank and a fine rackets court was left intact. Nothing of it now remains on the site.

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