Taj Mahal-The Purest Symbol of Love and Agony of Shah Jahan by Treeves

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When dawn breaks at the Taj Mahal, one of the most amazing wonders of the world, the epic monument adorns a glittering golden robe and shines like a heavenly abode. It is probably the symbol of one of the most passionate love stories ever written in the history of mankind. Stirring the emotions of millions of viewers who remain awestruck by its beauty, the monument continues to inspire us to love. It was erected for glory and it is a celebration of womanhood and love. It shines like a pure white pearl as if it has just emerged out of the ocean. The beauty of this monument cannot be valued and it is beyond being just a monument. It reflects the thirst for love and the passion that a man had for his wife. Sometimes it's beyond the reach of words to describe the monument when eyes view its grace and luster.

The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughals in India. It is regarded as one of the Seven Wonders of the World for reasons more than its magnificence. The history of the Taj adds soul to its beauty. It is the symbol of the love and pain that Shah Jahan had for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. The monument was built in memory of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife. It proves the deep love of a man towards his wife even after she breathed her last and remained just a memory. To him, she was much more than just a wife; she was the epitome of love. Shah Jahan made sure that his love would not vanish away with the winds in course of time.

Shah Jahan was initially known as prince Khurram and was born in the year 1592. He was the son of the fourth Mughal Emperor Jehangir and the grandson of Akbar the great. He met the love of his life at Meena Bazar and it was a young girl dressed in silk and glass beads. It was none other than Mumtaj Mahal who was then known as Arjumand Banu Begum. At that time he was 14 years old and she was 15. Arjumand was a Muslim Persian princess. It was a custom of the Mughal ladies to change their names after marriage. Five years after that they both got married. Although there were many women in Shah Jahan's life, Mumtaz continued to remain his favorite. It was only in 1628 that Shah jahan became the Emperor and Arjumand was bestowed with the title Mumtaz Mahal which means "Jewel of the Palace." She used to accompany him everywhere even to military campaigns.

They both remained inseparable. Tragedy struck in 1631 when Mumtaz died while giving birth to their 14th child. On the death bed of his wife, Shah Jahan promised Mumtaz that he would never remarry and he would build the richest mausoleum over her grave. He kept his promise. He was so much in grief that he ordered the court to be in mourning for two years. The construction of the mausoleum began in 1631. Masons, stonecutters, inlayers, carvers, painters, calligraphers, dome-builders and other artisans were commanded from the whole of the empire and also from Central Asia and Iran. It took almost 22 years to complete the monument. It took 22,000 people and 1000 elephants to construct the marble mausoleum. Taj Mahal was entirely built in white marble which was brought from all over India and Central Asia. It cost him 68000$ and finally the Taj was completed In 1653.

Soon after the Taj was completed, Shah Jahan was considered incompetent to rule the kingdom by his own sons and they put him under house arrest in the Agra fort. He breathed his last in captivity in the year 1666. His body was lifted by two men and silently placed near Mumtaz's grave. Thus ended the lives of two people deeply in love, but their memory still remains fresh and alive with Taj Mahal. I read an article about the Taj Mahal on a website that I subscribed through one of the internet service providers Verizon FIOS Internet. It was truly mind boggling and moving.

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Tina is a freelancer and has a liking for the Seven Wonders of the World. In her free time, I browse the internet connected by service providers such as a Verizon FIOS Internet to search for information related to architectural facts and wonders of the world like Taj Mahal.

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