

A Peace Tour to the Shrine of Madho Lal Hussain for Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week

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Venue : Shrine of Madho Lal Hussain
Baghbanpura, Lahore, Pakistan

About World Interfaith Harmony Week:

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event that falls in the first week of February (i.e. February 1 to 7). It was proclaimed by the United Nations for mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue and to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith; after a resolution proposed in year 2010 by King Abdullah II and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan. In order to celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week and to make some small efforts for more peace and understanding between different religious communities, Pakistan Peacekeeping Mission organized two short trips to the shrines of Madho Lal Hussain and Hazrat Mian Mir with some Muslim, Hindu and Sikh members.

Peace Tour to the Shrine of Madho Lal Hussain:

Sufism has actually an ancient rich history in South Asian countries and the regions of Punjab and Sindh were specially blessed with the presence of most popular Sufis who are still remembered and honoured by millions of Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Hindus of the sub-continent. Keeping in view the said benefit, we visited the shrine of Madho Lal Hussain with our Hindu and Sikh members, which is one of the brightest examples of Muslim-Hindu unity. The whole world believes in a simple fact that love can intimately unite two souls (or a human being with God) that they lose their individualities and separateness and merge completely into each other. In much the same way, Madho Lal and Shah Hussain became so inseparable that they became known by one single name... Madho Lal Hussain!

Shah Hussain's relationship with the Brahmin Hindu (Madho Lal) appears to have made him profoundly tolerant in his attitude towards other religions. To please Madho, he used to celebrate Basant (the Punjabi spring festival) and Holi (a Hindu festival of colours) with great enthusiasm. During Holi, Hussain and Madho used to follow the Hindu custom of throwing coloured powder on each others. His undying love for Madho is also clearly reflected in his poems which are still considered as some of the most precious gems of Punjabi literature today.

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Shah Hussain breathed his last in year 1599 and he was initially buried on the banks of River Ravi (Lahore) and was later-on shifted to the present tomb (located at Baghbanpura, Lahore). Madho survived him by 48 years, and he was put to rest in the same tomb next to Hussain. The shrine, containing the graves of the two inseparable lovers united in death as they had been in life continues to attract large numbers of faithful pilgrims to this very day. This shrine is amongst the prime attractions of Lahore, that make it a center of activities for three consecutive days because people from different faiths and religions around the world, gather at the shrine of Shah Husain and Madho Laal to celebrate the annual urs of both saints. Every year, the city of Lahore hosts this magnificent festival which is called Mela Chiraghan (The Festival of Lights). It is a unique festival because of the procession of lights, a time aged tradition attached with this spiritual carnival.

It was certainly a most pleasing moment to us to take our Hindu and Sikh members in the Sufi shrine of Madho Lal Hussain and we were extremely glad to see them performing the special rituals with us, which are usually very common to most Sufi shrines in the sub-continent, i.e. covering the graves with beautifully decorated Chaddars (grab spreads).

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF PEACE TOUR



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