

A Peace Tour to the Shrine of Hazrat Mian Mir for Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week

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Venue : Shrine of Hazrat Mian Mir,
Dharampura, 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.

History of Muslim-Sikh Friendship:

The historic friendship between Muslim Sufi Saints and Sikh Gurus in past is the main core of significant unity between Muslim and Sikh nations today. People associated with Sikhism have great respect and admiration for various legendary Muslim Sufis, including Hazrat Mian Mir, Baba Farid Ganj Shakkar, Baba Bulleh Shah, Hazrat Shah Daula etc. Even their most sacred book, Guru Granth Sahib (which is considered as their living Guru) has a set of spiritual poetry written by Baba Farid Ganj Shakkar. Muslim Sufis (especially Hazrat Mian Mir) have a crucial legendary position in Sikh religion and history. Sikhs around the world learn about Hazrat Mian Mir, his spiritual contributions and his place in Sikh history as he had close association with various Sikh Gurus, including Guru Arjun Dev, Guru Hargobind and Guru Tegh Bahadur.

This is pertinent to mention here that while Guru Arjun Dev (fifth Sikh guru) was being tortured to death in Lahore as per the orders and instructions of the Mughal emperor; he was Hazrat Mian Mir who was deeply upset and he said to Guru Arjun Dev, "When I see this tyranny, I want to destroy the entire Mughal sultanate". Guru Arjun Dev replied him, "Remain calm, dear Mian. The will of God is sweet to me." Then Saen Mian Mir said, "An anger has entered my heart. I want to break every brick between Delhi to Lahore."

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The Sikh history tells that in year 1588, when Guru Arjun Dev planned to construct a temple in Amritsar (present India) for the people associated with all castes, religions, cultures and creeds, he invited Hazrat Mian Mir to lay the foundation stone of the Harmandir Sahib. Hazrat Mian Mir graciously accepted the invitation. He came to Amritsar and he received a very warm welcome from Guru Arjun Dev and his disciples. Guru Arjun embraced Hazrat Mian Mir and disclosed the main purpose of the temple. Hazrat Mian Mir was extremely delighted to hear the fine objectives and the foundation-stone was finally laid by Hazrat Mian Mir. Today, the whole world calls the said monument as “The Golden Temple” which has supreme and foremost position among all most sacred and holiest Sikh places.

Peace Tour to the Shrine of Hazrat Mian Mir:

In order to strengthen and to fortify the bondage of friendship between Sikhs and Muslims around the globe, we visited the sufi shrine of Hazrat Mian Mir; that shares equal popularity among Muslim and Sikh nations. It was certainly a most pleasing moment to us to take our Hindu and Sikh members in the Sufi shrine of Hazrat Mian Mir 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) and distribution of sweets among the visitors of the shrine.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF PEACE TOUR



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