

A Visit to a Historical Building

Or

A Visit to a Historical Place

Or

The Taj Mahal

Essay No. 01

The Taj Mahal is the most magnificent building in India. It is called 'one of the seven wonders of the world.' It was built by the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan in the sweet memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Twenty thousand workmen including some European masons worked day and night for twenty years to build it. It cost the Emperor several crores of rupees.

I had a keen desire to visit this famous building of the world. At last the day came when my long-cherished desire turned into reality. Last year I had an occasion to attend the marriage of a friend of mine. This gave me a chance to see this master-piece of artistic design. As I came close to it, I was struck by its unique structure. It is a marvel in marble. We went to the underground room where Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal lie buried. Our minds went back to the times of Shah Jahan when he built this building at a high cost.

The Taj is surrounded by a cypress garden on three sides. It is situated on the bank of the river Jamuna which lends charm to its beauty. The surroundings and the garden add lustre to its architecture. The beauty of the Taj defies description.

In the moonlit night, its glory and splendor become unique. It is an intoxication and a delight to watch this marvelous feat of workmanship in a full moonlight night. I have seen several buildings but none presents such a glorious view. It is matchless in beauty.

Some historians have named it "the crown of the world." Someone has rightly called it a 'poem in marble.' In short, it is a paradise on earth. It is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. The crimson rays of the sun at the time of sunset, enhance its beauty and glory.

My joy knew no bounds on seeing this wonderful building. Its memory will always remain fresh in my mind. My knowledge about the Taj is now first hand. It is quite different from the second hand information which I had got from my books.

I also visited some other historical buildings in Agra Fort. It is a huge building that reminds the visitors of the lofty grandeur and the glory of the great Moghul Kings. I then went to Fatehpur Sikri where I saw the famous Buland Darwaja, the Panch Mahal and many other buildings. All these magnificent structures made a deep impression on me but there is nothing to match the beauty of the Taj.

I was reminded of the English lady who, on seeing the Taj, had said to her husband, "If you promise to build a monument like the Taj in my memory, I am ready to die right now."

Essay No. 02

A Visit to A Historical Place

There are numerous historical places in India very much worthy of a visit. It is important that every student should visit some of them because these are of much educational and historical value. History becomes living and lively when you visit a historical place.

The places of greatest historical value in Delhi and of wide interest to the students and common people alike are the Qutab Minar and the Red Fort. One who has not seen the Qutab Minar and the Red Fort in Delhi cannot be said to have seen Delhi at all.

Last Sunday, the Principal of our school arranged a special trip for the senior students to visit the Red Fort. Many of them had already seen the Red Fort but the Principal desired that they should see it again for better knowledge under proper guidance.

A special bus was hired for the purpose and all students of the class 10th were invited to join the trip. We all reached the school punctually where a special bus was ready to take us to the Red Fort. We reached the Red Fort at ten in the morning and the teacher-in-charge of the trip, who was a teacher of history, bought tickets for all of us. After buying tickets we stepped into the Red Fort. Along the entrance there were two rows of shops selling fine objects of arts and handicrafts. In the Mughal time this area was known as the Meena Bazar and here the princesses and the queens of the harem made their purchases.

Then we crossed a lawn and made our way into another gate. Here our tickets were checked. This building is known as “Naubat Khana.” It was the Royal Drum House. Royal musicians used to play musical instruments here in the Mughal times five times a day.

Thereafter we entered “Diwan-e-Aam” or the Hall of Public Audience. It has a marble dais and a marble canopy. Here sat the Mughal Emperor and received the ministers, courtiers and other people who came to meet him on official or public functions. The Emperor sat under the canopy on his throne. His Prime Minister sat on the dais. In olden and golden days, the walls of Diwan-e-Aam were covered with paintings and it was decorated with precious stones. But now these valuable treasures are missing. In those days even the humblest citizen could come to Diwan-e-Aam and present his petition to the King if he had any complaint against anybody.

Beyond the Diwan-e-Aam we passed on to the Rang Mahal. It was a place of pleasures and richly inlaid with precious stones in the Mughal times. In the centre of the hall ran a canal of refreshing water and it was known as the Nahar-i-Bahisht. A fountain shaped like flower played in the middle of the hall.

Beside Rang Mahal there is Khas Mahal. It has a beautiful marble screen. A scale is carved on the screen, indicating rigid justice which ruled supreme during the Mughal times. Then there is Diwan-e-Khas, the Hall of Private Audience where only selected people could meet the King, such as the ministers, the princes, the princesses and the queens. Here was written the Persian couplet which means:

“If there be paradise on earth,
It is here, it is here, it is here.”

The Red Fort also has War Memorial Museum, which exhibits weapons of war used in the First World War. Here in Red Fort was the famous Peacock Throne and the Kohinoor diamond which Nadir Shah removed to Iran. The throne was dismantled and broken into pieces. The Kohinoor diamond today is found in the British crown.

Red Fort has now been renovated and it has added to the beauty of the Fort.

Essay No. 03

A Visit to A Historical Place

In every nook and corner of India, we find a large number of historical buildings. We find the remains of ancient temples and forts all over the country right from

Kanya Kumari to Kashmir. The temple of sun worship (Martand) in Kashmir is in ruins which was built in the ninth century AD. Thousands of people visit this temple even today.

I made up my mind to visit the Allahabad Fort. This fort stands even today in UP at Allahabad though much of its glory has faded. This fort was built in 1583 by Akbar and even then, it is a much better fort in design and elegance. It is much better than the fort of Agra. It is triangular in shape, because it lies on the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna. Its red-sandstone walls are as elegant as that of the Agra fort. It has three important gateways which have high-flanking towers. One of these overlooked the Ganga river to the eastern direction and the other over-looked the Yamuna river to the southern direction. The main gate faced the city and has much heavy out work like that of the Agra Fort. This fort marked the expansion of the Mughal empire to the east and was constructed on its eastern frontier. Allahabad was very important in those days.

Unfortunately, as I entered the fort, I saw that much of the roofed area of the fort had disappeared and its interior was not as beautiful as it was in the earlier times. I found the famous Ashoka pillar standing opposite to the main entrance which shows that once Allahabad was part of the Magadh Empire. I tried to read out the writing on the pillar and on it is engraved the poetic tribute to the glories of Samudragupta, the emperor of Magadh.

I found the Patalpuri temple, which is another famous relic of Prayag. It is one of the oldest buildings of the pre-Muslim period. This temple is located near the northern wall of the arsenal in the vicinity of the gate facing the river. The temple appears to be an underground temple because the fort appears to have been constructed in such a way that it was to be raised to further height.

Again I moved forward and found the Akshaya Var tree. It is said that the people used to fling themselves down into the wish-fulfilling well from this tree. Akbar stopped this practice. The most beautiful place was, however, the pavilion which served as the Mughal Governor's (Military Commander's) residence. Its pillars are very beautiful to look at. Their design is elegant.

But the glory of the fort has faded much, as the Britishers had disintegrated larger part of it to construct a school. Thus, the upper storeys of the main-gate were dismantled altogether and the inlay work suffered much on that account. They converted the old palace into an arsenal.

Then I came back to the Triveni and had a bath there. I sang the hymns in glory of the Ganga after seeing the Allahabad Fort. If we compare the Old Fort at Allahabad to the Red Fort, we shall have to say that the Red Fort has kept its

past glory to a great extent even today, whereas the Allahabad Fort presents a spectacle of a fort that lies in a state of ruins though much of it still remains to tell its tale of woeful neglect.