

CLASS:-12TH ,HISTORY, REVISION NOTES

Kings and Chronicles The Mughal Courts

NCERT

1. Describe the process of manuscript production in the Mughal court.

Ans. Process of manuscript production in the Mughal court included the following:

- (a) Paper-maker's responsibility was to prepare the folios of the manuscript.
- (b) Skill writer, i.e. scribes or calligrapher copied the texts.
- (c) Guilders, illuminated the pages of the manuscript.
- (d) Miniature painter illustrated the scene from the text.
- (e) The book binders gathered the folio and gave it to the original shape of a book.

2. In what ways would the daily routine and special festivities associated with the Mughal court have conveyed a sense of the power of the emperor?

Ans. The daily routine and special festivities associated with the Mughal court observed the following:

- (i) By representing the status of the court.
- (ii) In form of salutation of emperor.
- (iii) Jharokha Darshan.
- (iv) Meeting held by sultan in Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas.
- (v) By honouring the mansabdar on special occasion with special gifts and jagir.

3. Assess the role played by women of the imperial household in the Mughal Empire

Ans. (i) The term "haram" is used to describe the domestic world of the Mughals. This word is taken from the Persian word haram, which means a sacred place.

(ii) The Mughal household consisted of the emperor's wives and concubines, his near and distant relatives (mother, step- and foster-mothers, sisters, daughters, daughters-in-law, aunts, children, etc.), and female servants and slaves.

(iii) Polygamy was practised widely in the Indian subcontinent, especially among the ruling groups. Both for the Rajput clans as well as the Mughals marriage was a way of cementing political relationships and forging alliances.

(iv) The gift of territory was often accompanied by the gift of a daughter in marriage. This ensured a continuing hierarchical relationship between ruling groups. It was through the link of marriage and the relationships that developed as a result that the Mughals were able to form a vast kinship network that linked them to important groups and helped to hold a vast empire together.

(v) In the Mughal household a distinction was maintained between wives who came from royal families (begams), and other wives (aghas) who were not of noble birth.

(vi) The begams, married after receiving huge amounts of cash and valuables as dowry (maahr), naturally received a higher status and greater attention from their husbands than did aghas. The concubines (aghacha or the lesser agha) occupied the lowest position in the hierarchy of females intimately related to royalty.

(vii) The agha and the aghacha could rise to the position of a begam depending on the husband's will, and provided that he did not already have four wives.

(viii) Love and motherhood played important roles in elevating such women to the status of legally wedded wives. Apart from wives, numerous male and female slaves populated the Mughal Household. The tasks they performed varied from the most mundane to those requiring skill, tact and intelligence.

(xi) Slave eunuchs (khwajasara) moved between the external and internal life of the household as guards, servants, and also as agents for women dabbling in commerce.