

PAINTING STUDY MATERIAL FOR CLASS 12TH BASED ON NCERT

Radha kishor Mondal

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3. Birth of Salim

Name	: Birth of Salim	Period	: Akbar
Painter	: Ramdas	Technique	: Tempera
Medium	: Water colours on paper	Collection	: National Museum, New Delhi
Circa	: 1590 A.D.		

DESCRIPTION

This miniature has been painted very beautifully in Mughal style by Ramdas in 1590 AD. The theme of this painting is based on an episode of Akbar Nama. It was on the occasion on birth of Prince Salim the whole people of Fatehpur Sikri and courtiers played music and celebrating the occasion. Some of them playing drum, clarinet and other instruments. Some royal officials distributing bounty to the people of Fatehpur Sikri.

It is a typical example of the later manner of Emperor's court artists. The birth scene of the son of Akbar and heir on August 31st, 1569, forms the subject of the upper compartment into which the picture is divided, the other two being filled with musicians and servants, with the surging excited crowd outside. Beyond is a rocky landscape.

The painting is a good example of the bustling movement and stress which Akbar's painters often introduced into their work. Among other points of interest in the painting is that the upper portion is the typical bird's eye view while for the lower panel the artist (Ramdas) is on a level with the scene depicted.

The strong colour contrasts, and the marked European influence, especially in the scenery and apparel, are especially evident in this painting.

Artist—Ramdas (final two decades of Akbar regime). Ramdas was miniature painter in Akbar regime (1556-1605). He worked on many miniature paintings. His one of the major productions is the illustration of the autobiography of the first Mughal emperor Babur (1526-30), the Baburnama, the manuscript was presented to Akbar in 1589. He contributed to several of the major productions of the royal workshop during the final two decades of the Mughal emperor Akbar.



TO BE CONTINUES