

BAAB HAIJ OF VILLAGE MURRAN

CHANDER M. BHAT



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by

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Village Murran is located within the jurisdiction of Pulwama Police Station in the district of Pulwama and was comparatively prosperous in relation to other neighboring villages. It stands about two km to the west of Pulwama town and two km. to the east of village Mitrigam... the birthplace of famous patriotic poet Pirzada Ghulam Ahmad 'Mehjoor'. One has to cross freshet 'Romes' to reach Mitrigam and then to village Murran if one intends to visit Murran via village Roohmoh. There is a hamlet Haarpur... the last abode of ascetic Nidhan Sahib and village Deeri to the southeast. To the north lie two adjacent villages Dadoora and Shangerpora and to the south there are two villages Ashmander and Vochhapur. At present there is a bridge on freshet Roomesh and all traffic to famous Chrar-e-Sharief (*Tsrar*) plies via village Murran. Murran is divided into different morahs. The lower morh is called Bonapur, the upper morh is called Sheikhpur, the central morh is called Boni Bagh, the internal morh is called Batapur, the southern morh is called Brarmeijpur and the northern zone is called Bonabagh.



The natural scenery of village Murran is very charming. This village, surrounded on all sides by green pastures, untrimmed meadows, trees, shrubs and paddy fields, breathes a typical rural atmosphere. The area, that extends about 05 sq. km between this village and other neighboring villages is very fertile and yields all kinds of vegetables and other agricultural products. The main source of irrigating the surrounding cultivable lands is Dharkol and Roomesh.

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It is believed that a pious Muslim saint Hazarat Mir Syed Hussain Baabhaij who had performed twelve Hajs (pilgrimages to the Holy Mecca) settled here at village Murrn, a mosque was built on the spot where the saint lived and preached the teachings; the mosque was named as Baabhaij mosque. It is believed that Hazarat Mir Syed Hussain Baabhaij was the preacher of the teachings of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani^{RA} and Mir Mohd Hamadani^{RA}. This mosque is situated in Boni Bagh just adjacent to Bhawan. This mosque resembles of the aspect and architecture of the pagodas of China, but the slope of the roof is straight instead of being concave. Its basement, ten to twenty yards square, is of stone, raised a few feet from the ground, and on which are ranged eight or ten pillars deeply grooved, and having their bases and capitals enveloped in fantastically shaped leaves. The saracenic arches and cornices are elaborately carved and bearing pendulous ornaments in the Chinese fashion. The interior building is also four sided and is a beautiful specimen of woodwork. The windows and doors are saracenic, with rich lattice worked panels instead of glass. The roof, or roofs, for these are two or three, may be pronounced Tuscan, rising one above the other, each being smaller than the one below it; and the top is surrounded by a much smaller cluster of little pillars, over which is another little Tuscan roof, and a conical spire, and a brazen ornament, like an inverted basin, on the shaft of a weathercock.

Annual Urs is being celebrated here on eighth day of bright fortnight of Vaisakha (April-May) every year. All the sects of people participate in this annual Urs and even the relatives of the villagers from outside used to come here some two three days before to participate in the Urs which lasts for two and a half days.

On the eve of Id-u-Fitr and Id-u-Zuha a large number of people would assemble here in this mosque to offer prayer. People from adjoining villages also come on these festivals to village Murrn and offer prayers in the compound of this mosque comprising a total land of about two kanals. The mosque was reconstructed in the year 1979. .

During the scarcity of water in the area, it is a routine to perform a Bandara in the mosque to please the holy saint and offer him prayers. The scarcity of water in local language is called “*Daavok*” and after the bandara it would rain heavily after a day or two.

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There is a legend that some elderly member of this village has seen a lion in the compound of this mosque on Friday, which indicates the spiritual power of this great saint even after his passing away.

There is a stone embedded parallel to the ground in the wall of this mosque and people of the village irrespective of caste or creed would offer mustard oil by pouring the same on this stone. The passersby would rub their hands on the stone and then to their faces to get the blessings of the holy saint.

A mosque of this pious saint also exists at village Malangpora, near Awantipora and the same too is also called Baabhajj. It is said that this pious saint had come to village Murran from Malangpora and passed his last days of his life here.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Chander M. Bhat

Born on 20th March, 1960 in Murrana a village in North Kashmir, Chander M. Bhat is presently working as an Assistant Supdt. Posts, in Department of Posts, Govt. of India. His articles regarding Posts and of non-political nature stand widely published in various papers and magazines of the country. A booklet "How to Collect Stamps" published by the Department of Posts, has earned him genuine accolades. He worked on the project of tracing the roots of his co-villagers and of the village Murrana, resulting into the culmination of a widely acclaimed book "Murrana ...My Village. Man with depth, Chander M. Bhat has also another book, "Ocean by Drops" (collection of poems) in his vase having colorful poems. His book "Ancient History of Jammu and Kashmir", confirms his researching capability. Various research papers like "The Splendor that is Amarnath" and "Vitasta...The Sacred River of Kashmir" are valuable additions to his works that has proved very fruitful and guiding force in the exile period of Kashmiri Pandits community of which the author is also a member.

Presently the author is working on "OOL...THE NEST" - a six volume project [each volume of about 2500 pages] on all the 595 Kashmiri Pandit villages of Kashmir.

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