

TAJ MAHAL

Na bregu reke Jamune blizu severnoindijskega mesta Agra stoji Taj Mahal. Sah Dzahan, peti mogulski cesar Indije (1628-58), je dal zgraditi to precudovito stavbo v spomin na svojo zeno Mumtaz Mahal, ki je umrla pri porodu. 30. aprila 1612 sta zaljubljenca priredila romanticno in razkosno poroko. V Agri je vladalo veliko razburjenje. Podnevi so se po cestah vile procesije, ponoci pa so nebo parali bliski bogatih ognjemetov. Devetnajstletna nevesta je dobila novo ime Mumtaz Mahal (Izbranka palace), iz katerega je izpeljano tudi ime Taj Mahal (Tadz Mahal). Mumtaz je umrla po porodu svojega stirinajstega otroka leta 1631. Dzahana pa je izguba zene zelo prizadela. Tolazbo je nasel v tem, da se je z vso nemo vrgel v gradnjo mavzoleja. Ni znano, ali je bil koncni nacrt delo enega samega arhitekta, zato tudi ne vemo, koliko je resnice v legendi, da so glavnemu arhitektu po cesarjevem ukazu odsekali glavo, da ne bi zgradil se ene Taj Mahalu podobne stavbe. Taj Mahal so gradili celih 22 let, pri delu pa je sodelovalo 20.000 delavcev in rokodelcev. Beli marmor so lomili v 160 kilometrov oddaljenem Jodhpurju, prevazali pa so ga s sloni. Drage kamne so uvazali z vseh mogocih krajev; Cejlona (Srilanka), Rusije, Bagdada, Tibeta... Najvecji car belega marmorja je, da v njem odsevajo spremnjajoci se odtenki dnevne svetlobe. Zidovi ob zori in mraku zazarijo v mehkikh vijolicnih, roznatih in zamolklo zlatih tonih. V zgodnji jutranji megli je stavba videti, kot da lebdi v zraku, najbolj neresnicen pa je pogled na Taj Mahal ob polni luni. Taj Mahal je s svojo skladnostjo in lepoto poln custev in je prav gotovo simbol ljubezni.



Islamic architecture, in its purest form, is epitomized by the incomparable Taj Mahal built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Work started on this monument in 1634 and continued for almost 22 years. It took 20,000 workmen twenty-two years to build this marvel of a marble tomb.

Situated in the city of Agra on the banks of the Yamuna, the Taj is enclosed in a garden amidst fountains and ornamental trees. The walled complex includes two mosques and an imposing gateway. The tomb is encased in white marble which is decorated with flawless sculptures and inlaid design of flowers and

calligraphy cut from precious gems. Below the dome, in a dimly lit chamber, lie the mortal remains of Shahjahan and his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal, reminding the world of their undying love.

The silver light of the full moon shines upon the cool white dome of the Taj Mahal, softly glowing in the night air. The extreme magnificence and beauty of the Taj can be appreciated fully in the subtle moonlight. However, the radiance of dawn and the orange glow of sunset also illumine the splendor of this most beautiful monument of India. Even in the bright light of the day, this wonder of the world shines with an awe-inspiring loveliness.

