

DELHI

Its Monuments and History

By T. G. P. SPEAR

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T. G. P. SPEAR, PH.D.



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HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

THIS book is not meant to be read all at once, like a novel. Nor is it meant to be learnt by heart, like a textbook. But I do want you to read it, and this is the way you should do so.

You should read the book a chapter at a time. When you have a lesson on the Tughlaks, read the chapter on Tughlakabad. When reading about Firoz Shah, read the chapter on Firoz Shah Kotla and Hauz Khas. When you read about Humayun and Sher Shah look up the chapter on the Purana Kila; when Shah Jehan is the subject, look up the chapter on the Fort. When you have done this, try to go and see the places you have read about. You need not wait for your teacher to organize parties. If you have a bicycle you can go to many places in an afternoon with your friends.

Another way to read the book is this. Whenever you visit a monument—with your friends, your family or your school-fellows—read, on your return, the chapter about it in the book. When, for instance, you go to the Qutb or the Lodi Park, look up the book afterwards and see what it says about them. Read the chapter on architecture in little bits. When you visit Hindu buildings, see what the book says about Hindu architecture, and when you visit a Mogul monument, see what it says about the Mogul style, and so on.

The book is not meant to worry you but to help you to understand history and to enjoy the great and beautiful monuments which lie all around you in Delhi.

In St Paul's Cathedral, London, there is a tablet to the architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Underneath it there is an inscription in Latin which says, 'If you seek his monument, look around you'. Similarly, if you seek the monuments of history in Delhi, look around you.

T.G.P.S.

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