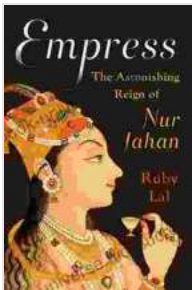


# Empress The Astonishing Reign Of Nur Jahan: A Legendary Mughal Ruler

In the annals of Indian history, the name Nur Jahan shines brightly as one of the most influential and powerful Mughal rulers. As the beloved wife of Emperor Jahangir, she played a pivotal role in the administration and governance of the empire, leaving an indelible mark on the course of Mughal history. Her remarkable journey from a Persian noblewoman to the imperial throne is a testament to her exceptional intelligence, political acumen, and unwavering determination.



## Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan by Ruby Lal

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 27609 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 317 pages



## Early Life and Marriage

Mehru-n-Nisa, better known by her imperial title Nur Jahan, was born in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 1577. Her father, Mirza Ghiyas Beg, was a Persian noble in the service of the Mughal governor of Kandahar. At a young age, she married Sher Afgan Khan, an influential Afghan chieftain. However, their marriage was short-lived as Sher Afgan Khan was killed in battle.

In 1611, Nur Jahan caught the attention of Emperor Jahangir, who was visiting Kandahar. Struck by her beauty and intelligence, Jahangir decided to marry her, bestowing upon her the title Nur Jahan, meaning "Light of the World." Their marriage was a love match, and Jahangir affectionately called her "Nur," a diminutive of her imperial title.

## **Rise to Power**

As Jahangir's wife, Nur Jahan quickly became one of the most influential figures in the Mughal court. Her keen intellect and sharp political instincts allowed her to play an active role in the governance of the empire. She advised Jahangir on important matters of state, participated in military campaigns, and even led diplomatic negotiations.

Nur Jahan's power grew steadily during Jahangir's reign. In 1614, she was granted the title of "Padshah Begum," which made her the highest-ranking woman in the empire. She established her own court, appointed her own ministers, and issued her own edicts.

## **Influence on the Empire**

As the empress, Nur Jahan wielded considerable influence on the various aspects of Mughal society. She actively patronized the arts, commissioning magnificent buildings, paintings, and jewelry. Her love for architecture is evident in the exquisite Nur Jahan's Tomb, built in memory of her father in Lahore, Pakistan.

Nur Jahan also played a significant role in foreign policy. She successfully negotiated treaties with neighboring kingdoms, including the Portuguese and the British. Her diplomacy helped maintain peace and stability in the region during Jahangir's rule.

## **The Jahangirnama**

Nur Jahan's influence extended beyond politics and diplomacy. She was a passionate writer and commissioned the Jahangirnama, a detailed chronicle of Jahangir's reign. This historical text, written by the court historian, Abdul Hamid Lahori, provides valuable insights into the life and times of Nur Jahan and Emperor Jahangir.

## **Love Story with Emperor Jahangir**

The love story between Nur Jahan and Jahangir is a legend in itself. Jahangir was deeply smitten by Nur Jahan's beauty and charm, and their marriage was characterized by mutual affection and respect. Nur Jahan reciprocated Jahangir's love, and she remained his constant companion until his death in 1627.

Their relationship was not without its challenges. Nur Jahan's influence and power sometimes caused friction with Jahangir's other wives and relatives. However, their love and bond endured throughout their lives.

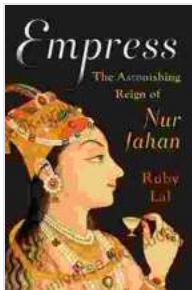
## **Death and Legacy**

Nur Jahan outlived Jahangir by 15 years and spent her later life in retirement. She passed away in 1645 and was laid to rest beside Jahangir in his mausoleum in Lahore.

Nur Jahan's legacy as a Mughal ruler is immense. She was a powerful and influential figure who played a pivotal role in the administration of the empire. Her patronage of the arts and her diplomatic skills contributed to the cultural and political landscape of the Mughal era.

Nur Jahan's life and reign continue to inspire and fascinate people to this day. She remains an iconic figure in Indian history, a symbol of female empowerment and the enduring power of love.

Empress Nur Jahan was an extraordinary woman who left an indelible mark on the Mughal Empire. Her rise to power, her influence on the empire, and her enduring love story with Jahangir make her one of the most fascinating and enigmatic rulers in Indian history. Her legacy continues to inspire and captivate, ensuring that her name remains forever etched in the annals of time.

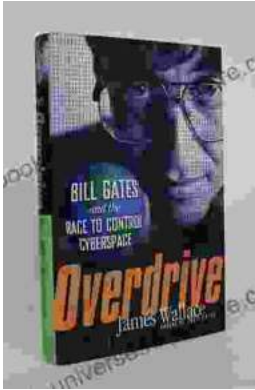


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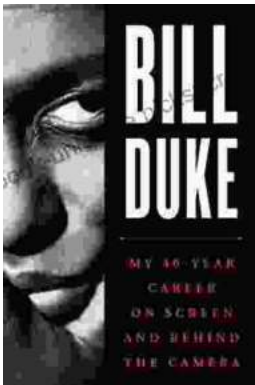
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