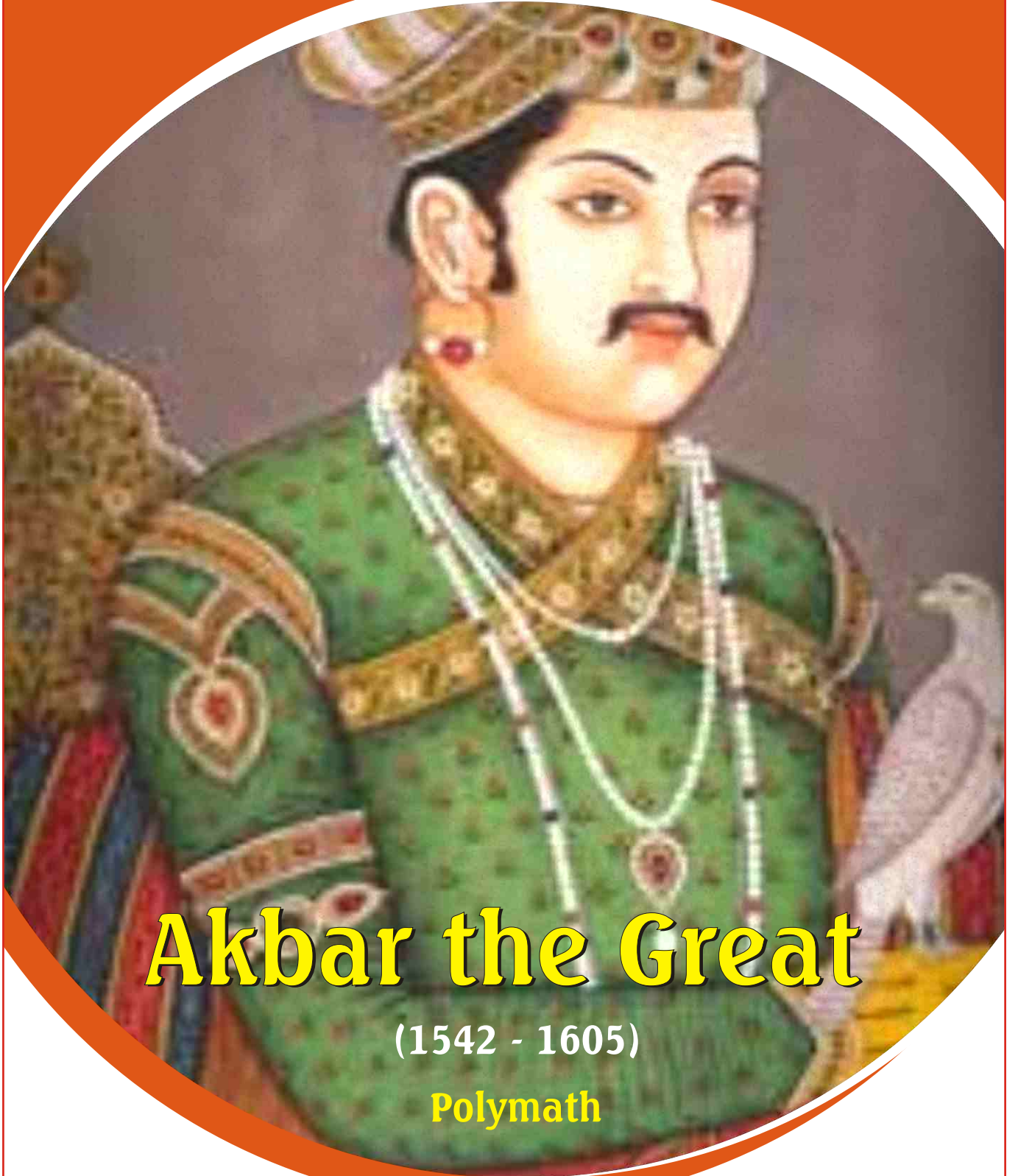


# LARGER THAN LIFE

A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS



## Akbar the Great

(1542 - 1605)

Polymath

## INTRODUCTION

Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar also known as Akbar the Great was the son of Nasiruddin Humayun whom he succeeded as **ruler of the Mughal Empire from 1556 to 1605.**

Akbar was a **polymath**: an architect, artisan, artist, armorer, blacksmith, carpenter, construction worker, emperor, engineer, general, inventor, animal trainer, lacemaker, ruler, technologist, theologian, and writer.

## EARLY LIFE

Akbar was **born on 15th October 1542, to Emperor Humayun and his recently wedded wife, Hamida Banu Begum.** The Rajput Fortress of Umarkot in Sind, where Humayun and Hamida were taking refuge, became the birthplace of this great emperor.

In 1540, Humayun was forced into exile by Afghan leader Sher Shah and Akbar spent his **childhood in Afghanistan,** at his uncle Askari's place.

**Humayun recaptured Delhi in the year 1555,** with the help of his Persian ally Shah Tahmasp. However, a few months after his victory, he met with an accident and died.

**In 1556, Akbar succeeded the throne,** in the midst of a war waged by Sikandar Shah for the Mughal throne.

## EARLY RULE

The **first battle** fought by Akbar was **against Sikandar Shah Suri of Punjab.**

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However, when Akbar was busy leading assault against Sikandar Shah, Hemu, a Hindu warrior, launched an attack on Delhi, which was then under the regency of Tardi Beg Khan. Tardi fled from the city and Hemu claimed the capital.

On the advice of his general, Bairam, **Akbar launched an attack on Delhi and reclaimed the city.** On 5th November 1556, he fought the Second Battle of Panipat against General Hemu.

Following soon after was the battle with Sikandar Shah at Mankot. In 1557, Adil Shah, who was the brother of Sikandar, died in a battle in Bengal.

At the same time, he started **wooing the favor of the powerful Rajput caste, at times by marrying Rajput princesses.** He expanded the Mughal Empire by including Malwa, Gujarat, Bengal, Kabul, Kashmir and Kandesh, amongst others. In no time, the rule of Akbar was firmly established over the entire India.

## FINAL YEARS

Akbar was greatly troubled in the last few years of his life due to the misdemeanors of his sons. Especially his third son, Salim, was frequently in rebellion against his father.

The last conquest of Akbar comprised of Asirgarh, a fort in the Deccan. Thereafter, he faced the rebellion of his son and **breathed his last on 12th October 1605.** His body was entombed in a magnificent mausoleum at Sikandra city, near Agra.

## Facts about Akbar

- He founded his own **religious cult**, the **Din-i-Ilahi** or the "**Divine Faith**"; however, it amounted only to a form of personality cult for Akbar, and quickly dissolved after his death.
- He spent his youth learning to hunt, run and fight, but **he never learned to read or write, the sole exception in Babur's line.**
- Nonetheless, Akbar **matured into a well-informed ruler, with refined tastes in the arts, architecture and music, a love for literature, and a breadth of vision that tolerated other opinions.**

## Quiz

- 1) Akbar founded his own religious cult, the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_. Fill in the blanks.
- 2) In which year did Humayun recapture Delhi?
- 3) Who was the Prime Minister of the Akbar's empire? (Hint: He was a brilliant administrator famous for his great wit and justness.)

Send your answers with your name and department to [one2one@clarislifesciences.com](mailto:one2one@clarislifesciences.com)

First 3 correct answers will get Clarista coupon worth RS. 50.

## Last Quiz Winners

- **Nimit Raiya** - iCubix • **Cenon Lall** - IRA
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