

29/2/56.
Story: THE MUSLIMS OF INDIA
CELEBRATE 'URS' OF
KHWAJA AJMERI

Location : AJMER .India.

Date : 19th February, 56.

Stock: Trix 300 DAYLIGHT.

G. B. Lawrence / 9/2/56. P. 201

Para.

V. PARKASH

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AJMER is 350 miles west of Delhi and is famous for the shrine of ~~KHAN~~ Khwaja Ajmeri. Muslims from all our India Pakistan and neighbouring countries visit Ajmer every year to celebrate the anniversary which is known as 'URS'. Religious hymns known as 'Qwali' are sung in the accompaniment of Harmonium and Tabla (drum like instrument). On the main day sweet rice are cooked in monster size pans known as the 'Degh'. For several days in anticipation, the visitors to the holy shrine drop money and valueables in one of the pans. After the cooking is complete the previlged caretakers of the shrine dig deep in the boiling pan and take out rice which are distributed to the visitors in return for some tip. Visiting Muslims offer flower spreads for the tomb of the great saint Khawaja Chishti of Ajmer. The anniversary celebrated come to an end by the sprinkling of Rose water and hundreds raise their hands to get a drop of it which they wipe on their faces and wait for the next year to come.

General view of the city of Ajmer taken from a top angle. Shot of the shrine of Khawja Chishti of Ajmer . Shot of the main entrance to the shrine. Shot of the crowded street which leads to the shrine. Shot of a group of Muslims arriving with flower beds which they cover on the tomb of the saint who lived in Ajmer several hundred years ago.

Shots of the Singings of Hymns known as "Qwali" Professional singers sing the religious songs to the tune of harmonium and tabla which is a drum like instruement. Shot of those listening to the Qwali.

Shot of the huge size pan with coins, notes, grain etc lying in it. Visitors to the shrine drop money in it which is later used for buying rice and cooking the same on the fibal day. Shot of people passing and dropping money in the big pan.

Shot of the 'Degh' or the nig size pan on fire with sweet rice being cooked in it. After the cooking is complete, the caretakers of the shrine, who alone are the previlged persons to loot the deg, empty the contents at a competitive speed. They keep on putting their sh_are in big cans and later offer the same to visitors in return for tips. Shots of caretakers emptying the deg. When about half is empty, they jump inside the boiling pan and pull out the last rice in it.

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URS AT AJMER.

- 2 -

The caretakers giving away the rice to visitors who stand across the barrer. Shots of the visitors eating the rice which they consider a great blessing.

The ceremony comes to an end with the sprinkling of Rose water for which thousands gather in the courtyard of the shrine. As one of the priests sprinkes Rose Water from the top of the gate, the visitors to the shrine raise their hands to catch a drop of the Rose Water which they wipe on their faces and consider it auspicious.

END.