

"On ... [April 8, 1648] in the 21st year of the reign [of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan], which day had been selected by the astrologers for royal entry, orders were issued for arranging the paraphernalia of a royal feast and a convivial entertainment. In all the royal apartments were spread beautiful carpets... while on the doors of the courtyards and porticoes were hung curtains embroidered, worked in gold, and velvet brocades The three sides of the great portico of the private and public palaces were embellished with a silver enclosure, and opposite the Jharoka was a golden enclosure, while golden stars with golden chains were hung in all alcoves, and these made the place resemble the heavens. In the middle of that portico was placed a square throne surrounded by a golden enclosure; the heavenly jewelled throne.... In front of the throne was erected a canopy embroidered with gold and pearl strings, and raised on jewelled poles.... Behind the throne were placed jewelled and golden tables on which was displayed the Qur Khana- which consisted of the jewelled swords with worked scabbards, quivers and gembedecked arms, and jewelled spears [made of] ... all the resources of the sea and mines.... In front of the great central portico was erected an awning of gold embroidered velvet... This great canopy, which in its height and extent resembled the heavens, was, according to the royal orders, woven in the imperial factory at Ahmadabad.... It covered an area of 3,200 (square) yards, and 10,000 people could be accommodated under it.... From the date of the auspicious entry of the Emperor into this heavenly building there was a continuous grand feast lasting ten days" (45-46).

-Samsam-ud-Daula, "Inauguration of Shahjahanabad" (1747) excerpt