

Contents

Acknowledgements IX

List of Maps and Figures XI

Notes to the Reader XVI

Simplified Genealogy Table: the Great Mughals (1526–1707) XVII

1 Mughal Hunting Culture

An Introduction 1

1 Courtly Culture 3

2 The Peripatetic Court and Encampment 5

3 Hunting Culture 9

4 Hunting Landscapes 11

5 Plan of the Book 15

2 Ancient Persian, Early Islamic, and Indian Hunting Traditions 17

1 Achaemenid and Sassanian *Pairidaēzas* 17

2 Early Islamic Hunting Practices 24

3 Ancient Indian Hunting Culture 32

3.1 *Elephant Science in Ancient India* 35

4 Ghurid and Sultanate Hunting Practices in India 38

3 The Hunting Legacy of the Ilkhanids and Timurids 45

1 Ilkhanid Hunting Traditions 46

1.1 *Mongol/Ilkhanid Encampment and Hunting Tours* 48

2 Timurid Hunting Practices 54

2.1 *The Timurid Encampment: Garden, Tent, and Hunting* 60

4 Hunting Landscapes

Human-Animal-Environment Nexus 65

1 From Wilderness to Favoured *Shikārgāh*: the Process 66

2 Hunting Techniques and Landscapes 69

2.1 *The Mughal Qamarghā* 69

2.2 *Akbar's Great Qamarghā Hunt in Lahore, 1567* 71

2.3 *The Decoy-Drive Hunt* 76

3 Hunt and Habitation 80

4 The Tamed Landscape 82

5 Lion, Cheetah, and Elephant Hunts

Dynastic Identity and Legitimation 89

1 The Lion Hunt 92

- 2 The Art of Hunting with Cheetahs 103
 - 2.1 *Cheetah Habitats and Capture* 109
- 3 Mughals and Elephants 113
 - 3.1 *Elephants in Mughal Stables* 117
 - 3.2 *Sociological Impact of Elephant Hunts* 118

- 6 **Politics of the Hunt**
 - Good Governance, Sovereignty, Intimidation* 120
 - 1 The Hunt and Symbolic Links to Good Governance, Justice and Kingship 120
 - 2 Affirmation of Authority in the *Shikārgāh* 125
 - 2.1 *Jahāngīr's Lion Hunt with Rāna Karan, Ana Sagar Lake Shikārgāh, 1615* 129
 - 3 War and Intimidation 132

- 7 ***Shikārgāh, Garden, Qūruq***
 - Interfacing Boundaries* 142
 - 1 Evolution of the *Bāgh* and *Chahārbāgh* Garden 143
 - 2 Typology of the Mughal Garden 150
 - 3 Hunting in 'Garden' Contexts 155
 - 4 *Qūruq* and Its Link to Gardens, Encampment, and Hunting 162

- 8 ***Shikārgāh, Forest, Cultivated Land***
 - Attitudes, Territorial Delineation* 170
 - 1 *Shikārgāh* and Agricultural Lands – Harmonious or Conflictual Spaces? 170
 - 2 Extending Agricultural Lands and *Shikārgāhs* – at the Expense of Forests? 173
 - 3 The Hunt and Social Costs to the Agricultural Sector 179
 - 4 Landscapes of Ambivalence 181
 - 5 Forests and Attitudes 183
 - 5.1 *Dense Tree Forests and Scrub Forests* 183
 - 5.2 *Akbar's Elephant Hunt in Narwar, 1564* 187
 - 5.3 *Forests under Retreat and the Need for Conservation* 189
 - 6 Mughal Irrigation Policies and Hunting Spaces 194

- 9 **The Artist's Vision**
 - Portraying Mughal Hunting Landscapes* 199
 - 1 *Taṣwīr* and Narrative Art 200
 - 2 Depicting the Hunting Landscape 203
 - 3 Portraying the Imperial Hunter in the *Shikārgāh* 209

4	Organisation of the Hunting Painting	214
5	Visualisation of the Encampment	215
6	Depictions of the Cityscape	217
7	Two Hunting Motifs	219
	7.1 <i>The Cheetah on the Cart</i>	219
	7.2 <i>Cheetah Attacking a Blackbuck</i>	219
8	Ancient Persian and Timurid Legacy	221
	8.1 <i>Depiction of Rocks</i>	222
	8.2 <i>Conflating the Timurid Past with Mughal Present</i>	223
	8.3 <i>Expression of Power through Legendary Persian Hunters</i>	226
10	The Hunt and Intellectual, Scientific, and Technological Pursuits	229
1	Scientific Inquiry at Court – the Background	231
2	Zoological Encounters on the Hunting Field	235
3	Science and Ethics at Court	245
4	Technological Innovations	248
11	Legal, Spiritual, and Moral Implications in Hunting Contexts	252
1	Animals in Scriptural Foundations	252
2	A Threat to Humans?	254
3	Hunting and Spirituality	257
4	Hunting Treatises – <i>Shikārnāmas</i>	264
	Epilogue	268
	Glossary	273
	Bibliography	276
	Index	295