

Dr. Leo's Travels

Visits Pakistan— 99 Percent Muslim

By Dr. Leo P. McCallum

I spent five inspiring and eventful days in Cairo, Egypt, and then winged my way to Lahore, Pakistan.

As the plane landed in Lahore, it occurred to me that I was more than 9,000 miles from the U.S., but I had not yet missed the country of my birth. Everywhere I had been the people made me feel so much at home that I felt I was truly at home. My stay in Lahore proved no exception.

I was met at the airport by my exporter, Sh. Muham-



Dr. McCallum

mad Ashraf, a tall, stately Muslim who wears a red fezz and is the leading publisher of English translations of Islamic literature throughout the world. For the next five days, Sh. Muham-

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mad and his business associate, Sayyed A. Hussain, introduced me to some of the

wonders of a country 99 per cent Muslim. But let me digress a moment to talk of a pertinent fact made clear by my trip to Pakistan.

Let me state that not once during my entire tour was I ever asked what kind of a Muslim I was. I was just a Muslim—and accepted as such. They were only interested in how they might be helpful in furthering the cause of Islam.

In Lahore, I saw the Shalimar Gardens, with its three levels of flowers and mango trees and with powerful fountains which cascade the water into beautiful sprays.

Another fabulous sight in Lahore is the Badshahi Mosque, which can easily contain more than 10,000 persons. The serenity within its marble-lined walls brings many Muslims there to study and meditate. It was here that Sh. Muhammad demonstrated some of his boundless energy.

THIS MOSQUE has four soaring minarets with a winding staircase ascending to their heights. From a photographic point of view I immediately saw the advantage of taking a picture of Lahore from the top of one of the minarets.

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level I assumed I had reached my objective and started taking pictures of the city. Imagine my surprise when a young Muslim by gestures and motions (the language there is Urdu) indicated there was still a higher level and that someone was up there waiting for me.

Summoning a little more energy I climbed and found Sh. M u h a m m a d Ashrad calmly perched on the highest level. Having been born

a Muslim who neither smokes nor drinks, Ashraf, at 62 years-of-age, still retains the vitality of a much younger man.

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