

APPENDIX I

SUMMARY OF *THE TWENTIETH WIFE*

The Twentieth Wife is a story about Mehrunnisa's life, a Persian refugee who later becomes one of the most India legendary Empresses through her marriage to Prince Salim, or Emperor Jahangir. It is all starting from her family who run away from Persia to India. A new regime in Persia screws them up and causes them to be in debt and in result forcing them to run away from Persia. But then one night, Asmat, Mehrunnisa's mother gives birth of her. As they are refugees, they live in poverty and starvation that make her father, Ghias decides to give away Mehrunnisa but destiny gives her back to her family as she is found by a kind merchant, Malik Masud. He contributes a big impact to Ghias's family as he is the person who brings Mehrunnisa's family to the introduction of Mughal Empire.

Their arrival to Mughal Empire changes their life. As Ghias comes from a noble-family, he is well-educated and has good manners. Those aspects give good impression to the Emperor of Mughal Empire, Akbar and make Ghias to be courtier and later to be *diwan*, treasurer in the royal court. That position makes his family to live in prosperous life. Mehrunnisa grows with beauty and good intelligence. Since she is eight, she has a dream that one day she could marry a prince. Her father's position takes a big part to bring her to her ambition which is to be Empress of Mughal Empire. She likes Prince Salim since she is a kid. She plans to captivate Prince Salim with her beauty and charisma so that she could be his wife. On unexpected day, Mehrunnisa and Salim meet. Salim is amazed by her beauty. She steals his heart. But all do not go that well for her. She has to marry to a soldier, Ali Quli. She does not love him but she ends up marrying him due to the arranged marriage that Emperor Akbar commanded to her father. The marriage somehow makes Mehrunnisa away from Salim. However, fate always comes between lovers. Mehrunnisa and Salim meet again. Salim is attracted to

Mehrunnisa more and realizes that he loves her. Through all the journey Mehrunnisa has to face, at the end she comes back to Salim, marry him and be the Empress of Mughal Empire.

APPENDIX II

INDU SUNDARESAN'S BIOGRAPHY

Indu Sundaresan is an Indian historical fiction author who was born and raised in India. She is a daughter of Indian Air Force Pilot who was also a storyteller like her grandfather was. She grew up on stories with various themes such as Hindu Mythology, fictional tales and is passionate in collecting books. She came to the U.S for graduate studies at the University of Delaware in Economics and has two degrees which are an M.S. in operations research and an M.A. in Economics.

She began writing after graduated on her studies. She writes fictional books on consorts and princesses of Mughal dynasty. She is the author of six novels so far. Her first novel is *The Twentieth Wife* (2002) which based on the life of Mehrunnisa, Empress Nur Jahan, the tale of one of the most powerful women in India. Her second novel is *The Feast of Roses* (2003), the sequel to *The Twentieth Wife*. She continues writing novels *The Splendor of Silence* (2006), *In the Convent of Little Flowers* (2008), *Shadow Princess* (2010), the sequel to her first two novels which is part of Taj Mahal Trilogy and she launched her novel again *The Mountain of Light* (2013). She became winner of the Washington State Book Award in 2013 and Light of India Award for excellent in Literature in 2012. She currently lives in Seattle, Washington area, with her husband and daughter.

Reference: <http://www.indusundaresan.com/about/>