"Jahanara Begum: The 17th C. Mughal Princess Who Could Be King"
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Summary: The breadth and depth of my research explores the sacred and secular life and contributions of the Mughal princess, Jahanara Begam (1614-1681). Jahanara was the daughter of the emperor Shah Jahan, the patron of the Taj Mahal. Upon her mother’s demise, the 17-year-old assumed the role of a consort queen to her father and cultivated “dual personas” that allowed her to artfully articulate her public and private roles. At a time when imperial women legitimized their authority through dynastic reproduction, the unmarried princess negotiated a spiritual and imperial authority through modes of masculinity associated with Mughal males. This talk looks at the numerous ways that princess Jahanara achieved an imperial status that ordinarily would have made her King.

SUGGESTED READING:

As there is little to no material on the life of Jahanara Begam, I am recommending my own published works as select reading for the attendees. The articles are a combination of academic and general works.


For General Reading on Mughal History: