

WAKE UP, SONS OF ISLAM

Appeal to Indian Moslems to Join Their Fellow-Countrymen.

BY VINAYAK

It is extremely encouraging to see the entire Mahomedan world awakening to the magnificent glories of their past; to the degrading actualities of their present and to the sublime hopes that await to be realized in the nearest future. The Pan-Islamic movement that is spreading itself like wild-fire throughout the length and breadth of the globe attests that the heroic blood of the prophet has not altogether been frozen by centuries of the icy chill of immobility and servitude. Egypt is struggling to stand, Afghanistan is preparing for the march. Persia has begun to advance. All those who believe in the truth that no nation can any more prosper on the general degradation and slavery of the world than an individual can profit himself on the general decay and servitude of society, rejoice to see the great awakening of these historical nations of the prophet. Growth demands light and progress demands freedom. It is a sure sign of the growth and progress of the Mahomedans that they are demanding light and freedom. But, dear Indian Mahomedans, from what quarter are you expecting that light to grow and that freedom to live? Shaking away the stupor that threatened the very existence of your life and glory, you manifest some signs of activity and manhood to the great delight of the just and the good. But beware lest the suddenness of the activity make you giddy. Waken before you walk; determine before you do. We fear that perhaps you are about to do the greatest mischief to your cause by adopting a means which is sure to defeat its own purpose. A strong desire to assert your own seems to have stirred the very foundations of your heart. But to reduce this pious ambition to an accomplished fact, whether are you proceeding? To the British doors? And to beg? These doors before which you stand in suppliant posture are the doors of the English tyrant. It is at these doors that your contagions are constantly whipped. It is at these doors that the pyramids of your glory were reduced to the dust of shame. It was here-at these British doors-that the twelve faithful followers

of Islam were fettered and flogged and hanged to the utter disgrace of your crescent and Koran ! Do you love the followers of Islam ? If you do then for the sake of your religion do not profane your faith by prostrating yourselves before doors of that tyrant who has been following such a mean and insulting policy in Egypt, in Turkey, in Somaliland, in Persia, in Afghanistan.

Not only for religion-dearer than life-but even for your honor as Indian Mahomedans, you ought to feel ashamed to serve the British Government in India. Not only as "Mahomedans," but even as "Indian Mahomedans," it is absolutely dishonorable to you do address your enslaver as a protector. Remember the day when an English merchant entered the august Durbar of the Mogul –the Emperor of Emperors –and craved in request suavely a permission to open a shop here and a factory there. And then remember the day, the 22nd of September, 1857, when Hodson, that coward of cowards, gives a solemn promise to protect the Royal family, asks them to surrender their arms and then by a dastardly attack butchers them like sheep, butchers the last blossom of the Imperial race of Timur. Throws the corpses before the Kotwali, exposed to the vultures to feast upon. From what a height, to what a depth you have fallen. The tiger of Mysore, the Begums of Oudh, the peacock throne, the widowed Taj-mahal cry shame upon you when they see you kissing the same cursed hand that insulted their honor.

I do not think for a moment that Indian Mahomedans are degraded to such a meanness as to try to forget the wrongs and the insults to their faith, to their nation and to their honor, if it serves their interests. But even the interests of the Indian Mahomedans can never be served by the continuance of the present slavery. The interests of India are identical with the interests of the Mahomedans, and political slavery can never promote the interests of a nation. Those who say that the driving out of the British will sound the tocsin of a civil war speak something which-even when granted-does not prove the utility of a foreign occupation. For the activity of a civil war is immensely better than the present stillness of death. We had our own civil wars-and who had them not? But our position at that time was infinitely more prosperous than now. Then we lived, but now we are dead. In spite of internecine wars there were Hindu Commanders in the Mahomedan army. There were Mahomedan commanders and admirals in the Maratha navy. Hindus and Mahomedan could share the prosperity of either. So that granting that the Mahomedans will continue a constant struggle as soon as the English turn away their faces, yet we shall be infinitely better in political, industrial and social matters. But have we no reason to

believe in a future of freedom crowned with peace? Have we not learned a better lesson from the past?

Yes, we have. Dear Indian Mahomedans and Hindus, read the history of 1857. Deplorable it is that the War of Independence which the heroic sons of Hindostan waged in 1857 either not read or misread in India. It was not, as many seem to think the dying gasp of the old India, but it was the first triumphant word of the coming Indian Revolution. Hindus and Mahomedans fighting to drive away the “Firangees”—a noble and unique spectacle. And dear Indian Mahomedans, it stands to your eternal credit that none did more to organize and to fight out that grand struggle for national liberty than the Mahomedan sons of India. It was the wisdom Mahomedans that war be the Hindus against the sinister attempts to the “divide and rule” policy. I do not indulge in fiction, but I refer to facts. Khan Bahadoor Khan, the appointed Viceroy of the Emperor of Delhi cleared Rohildkund of the foreign devils and then warned the Hindus by a public proclamation in July, 1857 “If the Hindus shall exert themselves in the killing of these infidels and expel them from the country, then they shall be rewarded to their patriotism by the extinction of the practice of the slaughter of the king. Everyone should use his sword in this pious cause. He who will give a rupee in this cause will receive from God seven thousand rupees.” Another proclamation says, “Should the English with a view to neutralize our proposal urge the Hindus to rise against the Mussulmans, let the wise Hindoos consider that if the English do so the Hindoos will be sadly deceived. The English never keep their promises. They are deceitful impostors. The natives of this country have always been tools in the hands of these deceitful Englishmen. None of you should allow this opportunity to slip. Let us take advantage of it. They intend to deprive the native Rajas of their territory and property.

Be it known to all of you that if these English are permitted to remain in India they will butcher you all.”(Wilson’s translation).

Prophetic words these. Every word is a distinct prophecy. Dear Indian Mahomedans, our fathers, crowned with the wreaths of martyrdom, cry aloud from their graves “to drive away these deceitful impostors.” Will you not fulfil this dying wish of our glorious fathers ?

For humanity, for religion, for honor, for interest, for our nation and for the fulfillment of the noble mission handed down by our fathers. Wake up, sons of Islam !

Blessed be the day when a United India raises up the flag of liberty from the dust of 1857 and plants it on the triumphant top of the Himalayas to the glory of man and to the honor of God.

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