

Handwritten text in Urdu script, likely a historical document or proclamation. The text is dense and covers most of the page, with some lines appearing to be in a different script or dialect. The document is aged and shows signs of wear, including discoloration and some missing pieces of paper.

Proclamation of Bahadur Shah.
(cf. pp. 438-39)

PROCLAMATIONS

Delhi [Proclamation], May 1857:

“Be it known to all the Hindoos and Mahommedans, the subjects and servants on the part of officers of the English forces stationed at Delhi and Meerut, that all the Europeans are united in this point:

“First, to deprive the army of their religion, and then by the force of strong measures to Christianise all the subjects. In fact it is the absolute order of the Governor General to serve out cartridges made up with swine and beef fat; if there be ten thousand who resist this, to blow them up: if fifty thousand, to disband them.

“For this reason we have remedy (*sic*,) for the sake of the faith concerted with all the subjects, and have not left one infidel of this place alive: and have constituted (*sic*,) the Emperor of Delhi upon the engagement, that whichever of the troops will slaughter all their European officers and pledge allegiance to him, shall always receive double salary. Hundreds of cannons and immense treasure have come to hand; it is therefore requisite that all who find it difficult to become Christians, all subjects, will unite cordially with the army, take courage and not leave the seed of these devils in any place.

“All the expenditure that may be incurred by the subjects in furnishing supplies to the army, they will take receipts for the same from the officers of the army and retain them by themselves: they will receive double price from the Emperor. Whoever will at this time give way to pusillanimity, and allow himself to be over-reached by these deceivers and depend upon their word, will experience the fruits of their submission like the inhabitants of Lucknow.

“It is therefore necessary that all Hindoos and Mahommedans should be of one mind in this struggle, and make arrangements for their preservation with the advice of some creditable persons. Whenever the arrangement shall be good, and with whomsoever the subjects shall be pleased, those individuals shall be placed in high offices in those places.

INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT

“And to circulate copies of this proclamation in every place, as far as it may be possible,¹ be not understood to be less than a stroke of the sword. That this proclamation be stuck up at a conspicuous place in order that all Hindoos and Mahommedans may become apprised and be prepared. If the infidels now become mild, it is merely an expedient to save their lives; whoever will be denuded by their frauds, he will repent. Our reign continues.

“Thirty rupces to a mounted, and ten rupces to a foot soldier, will be the salary of the new servants of Delhi.”²