

Handwritten text in Persian script, likely a proclamation or official document, enclosed in a decorative border. The text is dense and covers most of the page.

Proclamation of Nana Sahib.

(cf. pp. 451-53)

Proclamation by the Nana Dunder Punt (*sic.*):

Dated the 13th. Zilkad, 1273 (Hijri), equivalent to the 6th. July, 1857.

PROCLAMATION

A Traveller just arrived at Cawnpore from Calcutta states that before the cartridges were distributed a Council was held for

¹Foreign Secret Consultations dated 25th. June, 1858. Nos. 68-69. (National Archives, New Delhi). cf. Plate No. 19.

the purpose of taking away the religion and rites of the people of Hindoostan. The Members of Council came to the conclusion that as the matter was one affecting religion seven or eight thousand Europeans would be required and it would cost the lives of fifty thousand Hindoostanis but that at this cost all the natives of Hindoostan would become Christians. The matter was therefore represented in an "Urzee" to this effect to Queen Victoria who gave her consent. A second Council was then held at which the English Merchants were present. It was there resolved to ask for the assistance of a body of English troops equal in number to the Native Army, so as to ensure success when the excitement should be at the highest. When the despatch containing this application was read in England 35,000 Europeans were very rapidly embarked upon ships and started off for Hindoostan and intelligence of their despatch reached Calcutta. The English in Calcutta then issued the order for the distribution of the Cartridges. The whole object of which was to make the native army Christians as it was thought that if the army were made Christians there would be no great delay in converting the people generally. The Cartridges were smeared with Hogs' Lard and Cows' fat. This fact was learnt from the Bengalis employed in their manufacture in proof of which it may be mentioned that one man was executed and the other imprisoned for letting out the secret.

Meanwhile, while they were occupied in carrying out the plan the Ambassador (Vakeel) of the Sultan of Turkey (Rum) in London sent word to his Sovereign that 35,000 Europeans had been despatched to Hindoostan to make all the Natives Christian. The Sultan of Turkey (May Allah perpetuate his kingdom) issued a firman to the Pasha of Egypt the contents of which are as follows: "You are conspiring with Queen Victoria. This is not the time for peace for I learn by a letter from my Ambassador that 35,000 European soldiers have been despatched to Hindoostan for the purpose of forcibly converting the army and the people. If this is the case it is now possible to interfere. If we neglect this matter what face shall we show to God (Khuda) and this day will come upon us too one day, for if they succeed in making the natives of Hindoostan Christians they will attack our Country as well." When this firman of the Sultan of Turkey reached the Pasha of Egypt the Lord of Egypt assembled his army in the City of Alexandria (which is on the road to India) before the Europeans arrived. As soon as the European troops arrived the troops of the Pasha of Egypt began to fire into them with guns on all sides and destroyed and sunk all the ships so that not even a single European escaped. The English in Calcutta after issuing orders for biting the

Cartridges and when these disturbances and excitement had reached its height (*sic*), were looking for the assistance of the army from London, but the Almighty ('Huk Taala'-a Mahometan Title) by the exercise of his Power made an end of them at the very outset. When intelligence of the destruction of the Army from London arrived, the Governor General was much grieved and distressed and beat his head.

At Even-tide he intended murder and plunder,

At noon neither had his body a head nor his head a cover.

In one revolution of the Blue heavens.

Neither Nadir remained nor a follower of Nadir.⁴

Printed by order of the Peishwa Bahadoor, 13th. Zilkad, 1273.

The style of the **proclamation** is exceedingly simple and clear, evidently intended for the common people. It is very remarkable for the Mahommedan tone and language used although issued by the Nana—a Hindoo.⁵