



Smithsonian Institution

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

The People of India, Volume Three

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 08:45:34

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

SHAIR ALI SYUD.
(139)

SHAIR ALI SYUD is a Mahomedan of the Syud sect, or descendants of the Prophet, and of the Soonnee belief. He is an inhabitant of Gungeeree, in the Allyghur district, but of Persian origin. Gungeeree has been the residence of the family for upwards of four hundred years, ever since they left Timriz, in Persia. They are landowners, and employ themselves in the management of their property. Their diet is beef, fish, fowl, vegetables, and grain of every description; and their ancestors have lived to the age of seventy or seventy-five years.

The Syud is now sixty-four years of age, and about five feet three inches in height. His complexion is dark, and his eyes black; his hair and beard white. His features are peculiarly Mahomedan, of the centralasian type; and while they vouch for the purity of his descent, exemplify, in a strong manner, the obstinacy, sensuality, ignorance, and bigotry of his class. It is hardly possible, perhaps, to conceive features more essentially repulsive. On the classes to which Shair Ali belongs, time and change, with all the adjuncts of modern civilization, make little progress. Such as his ancestors were, he is, and desires his descendants to be, rigid Mahomedans, religious after their fashion, but attempting no change, and tolerating none.

SHAIR ALI SYUD.

(139)

SHAIR ALI SYUD is a Mahomedan of the Syud sect, or descendants of the Prophet, and of the Soonnee belief. He is an inhabitant of Gungeeree, in the Allyghur district, but of Persian origin. Gungeeree has been the residence of the family for upwards of four hundred years, ever since they left Timriz, in Persia. They are landowners, and employ themselves in the management of their property. Their diet is beef, mutton, fish, fowl, vegetables, and grain of every description; and their ancestors have lived to the age of seventy or seventy-five years.

The Syud is now sixty-four years of age, and about five feet three inches in height. His complexion is dark, and his eyes black; his hair and beard white. His features are peculiarly Mahomedan, of the centralasian type; and while they vouch for the purity of his descent, exemplify, in a strong manner, the obstinacy, sensuality, ignorance, and bigotry of his class. It is hardly possible, perhaps, to conceive features more essentially repulsive. On the classes to which Shair Ali belongs, time and change, with all the adjuncts of modern civilization, make little progress. Such as his ancestors were, he is, and desires his descendants to be, rigid Mahomedans, religious after their fashion, but attempting no change, and tolerating none.

The People of India, Volume Three
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-29-2024 08:45:34



Smithsonian Institution

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)