

The From The Central Jail

(B) Abdul Karim

SOME years ago a man, called Abdul Karim, is said to have called at the Srinagar Post Office and asked for a Mr. Smith.

"That is a very common name," said the enquiry clerk, "there must be at least twenty such persons now at Nagin, Chinabagh and Gulmarg. Can't you give me some more particulars?"

"Oh, yes," said Abdul Karim, "he was a Sessions judge some years ago."

But that was years and years ago. How should we know where he is? You should go to the High Court, there they keep track of all Session Judges."

There were very good reasons for Abdul Karim coming to the Srinagar Post Office for the information He wanted. The office has a busy time during the summer, for a large number of persons from all over India visit Kashmir during these months, and it is the duty of the enquiry clerk at the post office to keep in touch with them and with their movements in Kashmir. To Kashmir resort some of the world's most interesting persons: Expeditions to Nanga Parbat, troops on their way to and from Gilgit, eminent lawyers, big game hunters, and fishermen of quality. The post office keeps in touch with officers who have been able to rake leave, and the wives of officers who have not been able to take leave.

A great proportion of those who go to Kashmir are those who have retired from Government service and those who are contemplating an ideal retirement at Manisbal or Nageem. Some go to Kashmir to paint it in oils, some in water colours and some in vermilion. Some are by the scenery, some by the climate and some by its women. Almost every Englishman, no matter how high or low his position in life, considers he has only seen India, if he has been able to meet the Agha Khan, admire the Taj and play golf in Gulmarg.

Accordingly, as Abdul Karim thought, if one needed to find out the whereabouts of any officials, the proper person was the enquiry clerk at the Srinagar Post Office.

"But I cannot give you any further particulars," added Abdul Karim.

"Then," grinned the clerk, "you must ask someone else; I cannot possibly help you."

"It is strange," said Abdul Karim despondently, "how important a personage a Sessions judge can be so long as he is a Sessions Judge. He can hang you because he does not like your face, but

how easily he disappears

out of the mind of man, once he enters the Secretariat or goes on special duty or if he retires." "Did he ever come this way?"

"Oh, yes. He came on ten days' leave from Jullundur."

"That would be about 18 years ago."

"He may have retired, or he may be dead."

"He may have retired, but he cannot be dead,"

Abdul Karim insisted persistently.

"Why are you sure he is not dead? Anybody can die in twelve years and that seems almost the last you saw of him. Is that not so?"

"True, that is so, but he is not dead. I know that, and I can tell you why."

"Why?"

"Well, he sentenced me to death, and if it had not been for the Viceroy, I should have been hanged."

Then Abdul Karim unfolded his strange story as to how he had been implicated in a murder case by the police of his zila (Y. Abdul Karim said that his father was a *lambardar* in a village in the district. The value of the crops had deteriorated and *abiana* had been enhanced. And so there was a great deal of uneasiness, and uneasiness led to dacoities. The police decided that one or two examples would have to be made. The Inspector of the local thana claimed to have found the real culprits responsible for the dacoities, and by investigation, claimed that it was the *lambardar* and his four sons, who were responsible. The Sessions judge accepted the version of the prosecution, with the result that there was a verdict of guilty and the *lambardar* and his sons were ordered to be hanged, subject to the confirmation of the High Court. In the High Court, the conviction was confirmed. The *lambardar* and three sons were hanged, but Abdul Karim alone was reprieved by the Viceroy, as his share of the crime was not so clearly proved as that of the others.

"But what has all this got to do with the person you want? Sessions judges hang a lot of persons, but that is a part of their duty. Some of them hate the job, but when chaps like you commit murders, you should be hanged."

to be continued...

न्यायपालिका में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार पर बहुत सारे जागरूक नागरिकों एवं अधिवक्ताओं ने न्यायिक अधिकारियों, जजों/ कर्मचारियों के भ्रष्टाचार, अवैध सम्पत्ति तथा विधि विरुद्ध कार्यों से सम्बंधित सामग्री भेजी है।

जिसका प्रकाशन हम आगामी अंको में इनका वेरिफिकेशन करने के बाद करेंगे।

आपसे अनुरोध है कि जो भी शिकायत/ सामग्री आप भेज रहे हैं उसका प्रमाण अवश्य भेजें। प्रकाशन सिर्फ सप्रमाण भेजी गयी सामग्रियों का ही होगा।

हमारा उद्देश्य न्यायपालिका को भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त करना है न कि किसी को बदनाम करना।

सप्रमाण सामग्री डाक/ईमेल से निम्न पते पर भेजें।

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