

BE IT KNOWN to the consciences of the followers of the Mahommedan religion and the protectors of the reputation and faith of that religion, that as his Majesty Abdur Rahman Khan, Defender of the Faith, is very kindly disposed towards his people and anxious to protect his religion, he always confers benefits upon them by his verbal and written advice and instructions. It is therefore the duty of all his Majesty's subjects in general to be grateful to him and strictly follow his advice.

The words of a Professor of Learning are always useful.  
Happy are those who hear and follow them.

This also is one of the directions and instructions which his Majesty has preached to his courtiers and those in his presence in one evening's gathering, namely :

That for the believers of the true faith the great "honour" is their religion, and not, as some selfish people believe it to be, simply the habit of praying and a nominal religion.

If the wife, children, sisters, and other belongings of this world may be considered as a man's honour, then there is nobody who has a lasting honour, because these relatives and belongings are always changing, as in the case of marriage or divorce, and daughters and sisters take the name of their husbands the moment they are married, and are no longer members of the same family, and in the same way the other belongings of a man keep on coming and going, and nobody is considered to have lost his honour by these changes, but if anybody does anything against the teachings of his faith it will injure his honour and leave him no excuse.

"Honour" literally means the credit of one with another or with others, and that is the reason why the wife of a man is called his "honour,"<sup>1</sup> and an insult to her is considered as an

<sup>1</sup> The Mahommedans say that a man who does not give his life willingly in fighting for his *nāmūs* (honour or reputation) is a coward and an infidel. The belief of the Afghans was that by this was meant the honour of their wives: the Amir in this book explains to them that it really means their religion and faith, and therefore to save that faith they must fight for their country and their king. Sultan Mohammed Khan.