

the women were ravished, and the handsomest carried away. Such of the men as fell into the hands of the Marattas were killed, and of those who escaped the sword a large proportion perished of hunger; every eatable thing having been swept away by those whom people in Europe are pleased to call the gentle Hindoos. These ruffians did not even spare the *Kudali Swami*, who is the guru of all the Maratta Bramins of the *Smartal* sect, and who is by them considered as an actual incarnation of the deity. His *matam*, or college, was plundered and burnt; but this cost the Maratta chief dear. The enraged Swami held out threats of instant excommunication, and was only pacified by a present of 400,000 rupees. Tippoo had the satisfaction of taking one half of this sum, which was the assessment levied from the Swami on account of the *muzzur* that lord Cornwallis exacted.

The Swami is said to have been of great use in the famine, and to have employed the utmost of his influence in collecting money to support the starving wretches. He daily fed 3,000 Bramins, and other religious mendicants; for, according to the Hindoo doctrine, it is the charity which is bestowed on religious men that chiefly procures favour in the eyes of the gods.

In the neighbourhood of this place, our traveller came to a village, where the inhospitable disposition of the natives fully manifested itself. 'Near this village,' says he, 'I overtook a Seapoy lying in the utmost agony from a rupture. Having with some difficulty reduced it, the pain in his groin was succeeded by a violent colic, which contracted his limbs; and, had any exercise been at all proper for a man in his condition, rendered him totally unable to walk. I therefore went into the village, in order to procure a cot or bedstead, of which a litter could be readily made. As I had left all my attendants with the sick man, except an interpreter, the villagers held me in contempt. I found the *gauda*, his brother, and some head men of the village, all *Sivabhactars*, standing in conversation, and wrapped up in their blankets. Having made known to them my case, the *gauda* replied, that they had no cots, and his brother talked very loud, and