

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	341	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	30 — 5 — 19-1860	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Political Department,
for the month of May 1860.*

No. 35. Read the following letter from Major R. J. MEADE, Officiating Political Agent, Gwalior, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th April 1860, No. 164.

With reference to your letter No. 13 of 8th January 1858, I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information copy of a note received from the Durbar to-day, forwarding a "Bawista" in Shastree respecting the queries made in your letter under acknowledgment.

TRANSLATION.

Question.—A Sudra, Maratta, Raja or Sardar who marries several wives, gives greater portion to the 1st of those several wives. What is the reason for this ?

Answer.—The objects of marrying are two, namely, one for having issue, and the other for the gratification of lust. The 1st wife is intended for the sake of progeny and religious services, and the 2nd for the sake of carnal pleasures. The husband should, in case of marrying a 2nd wife, previously give the Vetana Dhanam (a fixed sum) to the 1st wife. This is the rule. Consequently, while alive, it is better to allot a greater share to the 1st wife.

Question.—In case of brother succeeding to the territory of his brother a Sudra, Maratta, Raja, or a Zemindar who died leaving several wives, should he (successor) pay each of them an equal share in the same manner as his brother had done, or should he pay a greater share to the 1st wife ? Why should he pay her a greater share ?

Answer.—The husband being the proprietor of the estate, was at liberty while alive, to give equal or greater share to his 1st wife. But the allotment of an equal share is opposed to Hindu law. After her husband's death, the 1st wife has right to possess the whole estate, and maintain her co-wives as mother. At least she must adopt a son and manage all affairs. In case of brother's succession to the territory, it is better that a boy should be adopted to the 1st wife and thus all the affairs be managed. If brother succeed, and do not so adopt a boy to the 1st wife, she can adopt one. He ought therefore, out of fear to the public opinion, or respect to the Law, or in consideration of the 1st wife's title to the entire estate under Law, obtain her consent necessarily. In the absence of a son, the 1st wife alone is to perform the funeral obsequies, and receive the full sum. That person who offers the sacred rice balls is entitled to the territory, &c., The 1st wife under all Laws is deserving of pre-eminence.

NABAR, WEDNESDAY,
6th Cheitra Suddha 1917.

(Signed) GOVINDA BHAN,
Parvanikar.

(Translated.)

(Signed) NARASIMHOOLOO, Naidoo.

No. 36. ORDER THEREON, 30th May 1860, No. 341.

Ordered that the foregoing letter and the translation of its enclosure be recorded, with reference to the Proceedings of Government, dated the 5th December 1859, No. 705, relative to the settlement of the affairs of the Tanjore Raj, and 20th of the same month, No. 740.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a signature or a short passage, appearing on the right side of the page. The text is partially obscured by the binding and the left page.

Dear Sir
 I have the honor to
 Acknowledge the receipt of your
 letter of the 10th inst. and in
 reply to inform you that the
 same has been forwarded to the
 proper authorities for their
 consideration. I am, Sir,
 Very respectfully,
 Your obedient servant,
 J. M. [Signature]

[illegible]

۱۱

...
...
...
...
...
...

...

...

...
...
...

...

...

...
...
...

...

...

...

...

...

...

Order Thomson. 30 May 1860. No. 341.

Ordered that the foregoing letter and the translation of its enclosure be recorded, with reference to the proceedings of the Government dated the 5 December 1858, relating to the settlement of the affairs of the Tanjore Raj, and of the same month 1858.

[Signature]
No. 43
37/58
38-39/3
25/57/58
29-32
20/12/58