

**THE MEMOIRS OF
KHAWĀJAH MUḤAMMAD BUX,
(AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSMAN)**

PART VIII

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THE ELEVENTH JOURNEY

When I returned from India and reached Perth, it was reported in all newspapers that Mr. Muhammad Bux has come back from India. This alerted all of my opponents. Members of the Labour Government set out to harm my interest. The tax on my land was doubled after two months.

After a little while the lady tenant, doing business in the “Horse Shoe Coffee Palace” for the last ten years expired by the will of Allah. It proved to be a misfortune for me. I was being paid sixteen pounds per week as the rent for that coffee house and many a persons were desirous to take it on rent. It came to my mind that it might be more profitable

to handle this business myself. In the mean while an advertisement appeared in the newspapers on behalf of the legal heirs of the deceased lady offering that business to others through an open auction. At last the auction date came and bids were offered. I was the highest bidder with five hundred and twenty five pounds (including the furniture and the good will etc.) and got the business rights. I drew a cheque for this amount and got the possession there and then.

An elderly lady, by the name of Miss Colt, was carrying out business on contract in this Coffee-Palace formerly. There was not a trick known to any woman in the whole world, but she possessed it. She was most clever, artful and experienced. She knew all the tricks of her trade and could lay any trap. I was totally deceived by her soft looks and sweet words. I thought that she would not be able to pinch any money when I would be handling the cash all the time. It is impossible to avoid harm. If one guards one aspect, the dishonest person diverts his efforts to another direction. If you give attention to this second aspect, he would branch off in the third direction. You simply can not defend all the aspects against a dishonest worker.

I employed Miss Colt in spite of knowing all these factors. It was advertised in the newspapers that Miss Colt is the manager. I used to take over cash at dinner time. Miss Colt used to rent out the bedrooms at night on her own. This amount was also under my direct control as I used to sit with her till 12 pm, or sometimes up to 1 am, at night.

When my opponents learnt that I had taken over this business myself, they became more active against me. They started an open campaign against me. They told everyone not to go to the "Horse-Shoe-Coffee-Palace". The persons in that business felt quite pinched on my joining their business. As "two of a trade seldom agree", they started saying that a person owning so much of property as myself had no business to enter this field. "Why was he in competition with us in this field?" They started telling our weekly customers to forsake us because Muhammad Bux was not an Australian. They tried to induce them to change their business to their own compatriots on racial grounds. They propagated that I was "black" and they should not give benefit to a black man. They told them to quit my "Coffee-Palace" because it encourages the blacks to stay on, while they wished the blacks to be thrown out of Australia. They did not stop at this propaganda but posted a man for picketing outside our 'Coffee-Palace' on the road. His job was to entice and mislead any person coming out of our place and to stop anyone going in.

I was deeply grieved to witness such tactics with my own eyes. On the other hand Miss Colt, who did not get a chance to pinch money, started laying traps for me. She told me that I had all my property here in Australia, so it would be better for me to marry her and settle down, as going back to India will be of no avail to me. She told me that she would keep me happy and fully contented. I told her there was no way! She tried her best but failed. She took to pilfering the items from the stock in the 'Coffee-Palace'. A girl with a basket or bag on her arm used to visit her. She would leave that bag in the room of Miss Colt, who would slip some of the items in this bag. The girl used to take away the filled bag on her next visit.

This was how the items of stock and clothing used to disappear from the 'Coffee-Palace'. There was another girl employed in the 'Drawing Room'. She tried to entice me for marriage as well when she learned that all this business belonged to me personally. She learnt through my agent that I owned many other properties. She would drop many hints to me to show that she was ready to marry me.

The above has been narrated to show to the readers that money makes young and beautiful women to try marrying an old man like me, just because I owned a bit of property. At last Jenny (the second girl) told me plainly that she wanted to marry me. She wanted me to hand her over this business of running the 'Horse-Shoe-Coffee-Palace' which she asserted she could run efficiently. I turned the offer down and earned her wrath and spitefulness.

I was getting more worried day by day. I could see only enemies all around me. I prayed to the Almighty to show me the way. Now Jenny also started pilfering items. She would snatch anything she could manage. Miss Colt was also doing her part of this pilfering. She would try to damage the business. A lot of items were pilfered by the night boarders. One would take a towel away while another would make off with a comb and brush. Someone would take away the bed sheets. If a person approached for taking "Horse-Shoe-Coffee-House" on rent, Miss Colt would misguide and mislead him and he would shy away. Many a person were thus turned down by her tactics

Miss Colt and Miss Jenny used to gang up and scare away even the gentry. I was continuously worried and would remain very upset day and night. A stage had been reached where it was difficult to recover enough money to pay the rent. The persons coming from the outback turned away on learning that the business belonged to a man from India. I ultimately decided to terminate the services of these women from the

shop. They, anyhow, were not willing to quit. I was also afraid of their derogatory behavior if thrown out suddenly. Under the circumstances I called Szhaira to me for a couple of days. I told him to behave as if he had taken this place on rent from me. He was to tell these women that he did not need their services any more. So this was how these ladies were shunted out. Since that day I employed Allah Bux Butt as a clerk for the night and reduced the charges too. Even then I could not get any clients. Miss Colt used to scare off the clients coming to take rooms on rent by telling them that the place was no good and the furniture was very old, etc. At last I reduced the rent to as low as pounds twelve per week only to revive the slumping business and to make it easy for the clients.

The quality of a man is to be judged when he is well off and possesses worldly riches. It is then that he should abstain from committing a sin or any other kind of follies.

O my sons! Just look at your uncle Feroze ud-Din. He considered his income as too much while in reality it was not much. He totally abandoned his previous beliefs and behavior. He married a white girl in Australia to obtain his personal comfort. His marriage was solemnized both ways, i.e., legally, as well as morally. I do not think that he earns enough to pay for both ends to meet. I am sorry for him. As far as I can see he is not going to have a smooth sailing in his life. A man can not keep his health and wealth forever. I know from personal experience that a second marriage is not advisable. The first and foremost disadvantage is immediate increase in the domestic expenditure, even if one earns enough to settle his household expenditure. The other disadvantage is that it creates rivalries among his children. He will be called unjust even if he treats both his wives perfectly equal. He would face lot of difficulties when it comes to marrying of his offspring.

I also know that the children of those who had married an Australian girl in Australia do not have good opinion about their father. They were not obedient to him. They would rather address him most disrespectfully. The children, be it a boy or girl, wouldn't consider the Muslim relatives and compatriots of their father any good. They would ultimately marry in the white community. I have yet to find a child born out of an Australian mother marrying into our own community.

It is my observation that an Australian woman would stay put only as long as she gets enough to spend. She would switch over to another man when feeling the slightest discomfort. The law allows her to divorce her husband at her will. She can also extract her maintenance expenses

from her ex-husband through the Court. There are a thousand and one such disadvantages.

I, therefore, advise the young in general, and my sons in particular, never to marry another women if they already have one wife, if they wish to have a happy and problem-free married life. Never marry an English woman if you want a tension-free life. To get a second wife is like poisoning your own meals. O my Sons! Do follow my advice if you consider me your well wisher. The righteous sons should implement their father's will with fullest sincerity.

THE HARMS FROM ADDICTIVE THINGS

Readers! There are many kinds of addictive things in this world. May be all my readers do not realize their ill effects. I consider it important to inform them about this briefly.

Wine, of course, is the most intoxicant. One forgets his Creator and the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) after taking it. He loses all his five senses. He gets intoxicated and loses inhibition to sins. The drinking enlarges your spleen. Some persons acquire obesity due to it and become repulsive by losing their proportion. It reduces some from prosperity to penury. They lose all their wealth because of it and attain the dubious distinction of being known as a "drunkard". A person who drinks becomes so much audacious as to kill or get killed. Drinking is unlawful as per the Shari'a as well. A drunkard can not come to any good end.

There are many other addictive things like opium, charas (cannabis), chando (Chinese opium mixture for sniffing), etc. The use of these drugs destroys your blood and flesh, leaving you a skeleton only. The more you use these things, the more addicted you become. You loose your shape due to addiction. Your contact with your family decreases while you spend more time with your "pals in addiction". Your usefulness in the daily worldly routine is greatly reduced. At last you are reduced to the status of a vagabond who belongs nowhere. He is confined to his "Water-Hole" (the place of his drinking and addiction) and often expires there, too!

The hemp (hashish) is another destroyer. It increases your appetite to start with but ultimately destroys you. The courage of a hemp addict is reduced to such an extent that he is terribly afraid of a sparrow flying by him. This addiction upsets your stomach and weakens you. A hemp addict is often found talking to the imaginary 'birds-of-heaven'. This addiction is also forbidden in 'Sharia'.

The Persons addicted to smoking or chewing tobacco, pan (betel), beetle-nuts, hubble-bubble (water pipe), cigar or cigarettes fall under the same category of addicts, especially those who chew pan and beetle-nuts. Their teeth become stained and their mouth starts looking awful. The non-smokers get an awfully bad smell from the mouths of those who smoke a cigar or biree.

Non-smokers also disdain the hubble-bubble smokers. A hubble-bubble smoker himself considers the non-smokers better. It is very strange that hubble-bubble smoking and pan-chewing is becoming more and more popular in Punjab. Even the ladies have taken to smoking hubble-bubble. Probably the ladies all over the world are oblivious to the dangers of smoking. The Readers can well imagine the harmful impact of smoking on the women. Especially our Muslim ladies are getting more and more addicted to it, whereas the ladies of our compatriot nationalities are relatively free of it. If ever you ask a drunkard why he drinks, he plainly states that it increases his blood circulation and decreases his melancholy and sorrows. They tell you to taste it yourself to experience all the bizarre hallucinations. To sum it up, they induce others to drink also. Similarly all those addicted to drugs praise their own brand of drug. They do it with the purpose to attract others to addiction. They wish all of us to become addicts.

Imitation is the reason for the increase in smoking the hubble - bubble among the Punjabi Muslim women. These women copy others. The women, who are used to smoking, praise their own habit in front of others, to induce others to smoking. They face less resistance, and there is decrease in admonition presently, from the others. It has become a sort of fashionable behavior. If my readers reflect carefully, they would second my opinion.

This habit of these ladies is quite contagious for the other women. It used to be said that non-smoking ladies were the thieves among a gathering. If one woman complained of stomach-ache, the other would at once suggest smoking as a cure. It was supposed to be good for the stomach. If another had head-ache or constipation, smoking of the hubble-bubble was at once prescribed as a permanent cure. The inexperienced and simple ladies fall in the trap and start smoking. Once they develop the addiction, they have no choice but to corroborate other smokers. Women who smoke are considered respectable in any gathering. It has become the current fashion. If a separate hubble-bubble is not placed in front of every lady at a female mourning congregation, after a death in the clan, they get annoyed. They would pick up a thousand and one

faults in the house of mourning. If they are provided separate hubble-bubbles, then they would be enjoying themselves and gossiping with contentment.

It is absolutely wrong to smoke a hubble-bubble or chew a pan. The main disadvantages are given briefly. Thousands of rupees are wasted by the Muslims on pan and tobacco. Do our neighbouring communities have such deplorable habits? You would of course say "No!" at once. You would yourself confirm that our Hindu neighbors are not at all spendthrifts.

It is but natural for such a community to be prosperous and equally natural for the Muslims to be subservient to them. Why shouldn't they be 'kings' to us? Why shouldn't they be so well off and rich while the Muslims are down-trodden? In my humble opinion due to these strong points our neighbouring community has an edge over us.

Under these circumstances the Muslims can never hope to succeed because wasting money has become a second nature to them. They are unable to maintain a balance between their expenditure and income.

Smoking is highly injurious. You can see yourself one of the disadvantages. Place a clean white piece of cloth on the mouth of your hubble-bubble and inhale through it. On examining the cloth you will observe a black stain on it. Now try to wash out that stain. You would find it quite stubborn. Now, my Readers can very well guess the internal condition of those persons who smoke day-and-night. The smoke reaches their lungs and the soot gets settled there. Their lungs quit working efficiently and they become sick. All the five senses suffer a decline. A man should abstain from all kinds of addictions.

Smoking of tobacco and cigar is also a kind of addiction. One should avoid inhaling it. A person retains good health throughout his natural life if he avoids such bad habits. The ladies of Europe, Arabia and Turkistan are not at all addicted to smoking. All of them said that it was a useless activity when asked why they did not smoke cigarette. Smoking harms the ladies. Had smoking been even slightly useful, hundred percent of the English ladies would have been taken it up.

About Construction Work

I have been involved in some kind of construction activity for about 25 years. I think it is proper to share my good and bad experiences about the construction work with my readers. I will put these down in some detail to let the Readers gain the full benefit. People, who go to Europe/

England to get a degree in Engineering, study there for three to five years to obtain this degree. They only read books in this period. I do not know as to how should I evaluate and compare their study courses of three to five years with my practical experience of 25 years.

I have been supervising construction works of one kind or the other in Australia for 25 years. The engineers, carpenters, plasterers, and labourers, etc., working under my supervision were all English. On an average, I used to supervise the performance of about fifty workers employed on the job, on daily basis. I would supervise them all the time. Every job was accomplished under my direct supervision. I would monitor the working of each of them. In the beginning, I did suffer some losses, but gained a firm grip with the passage of time. More than a score of big shops and large hotels were constructed under my direct supervision. Some of these are still there. They stretched from one end of a street to the other end. The methods adopted to accomplish the same job by the English architects, masons, and the labourers are quite different as compared to their Indian counterparts. I have got many buildings constructed in Lahore as well, so I can fully appreciate the difference in approaches of working of the English and Indian architects, masons, and labourers.

The people getting modern buildings constructed in Punjab are spending more than double of the actual cost, because they are totally ignorant of construction business. They do not know anything about construction. Similarly, when an owner wants to purchase timber, he takes a wood worker/supervisor along with him to assist him to identify the kind of wood he needs to buy. These log dealers give commission of one anna per rupee to them as a matter of custom. This is done wherever you go. So the carpenter gets about six and a quarter percent commission from the shop. It is almost a tacit understanding all over the market and no negotiations are needed. When the log dealers see a carpenter with the customer, they add his customary commission to the bill before it is presented to the customer. When the logs are loaded on the carriages, the labour charges are usually fifty percent in excess.

The log splitters are called for when the logs arrive at their destination. They charge 25% more for this job than they charge from the shop keepers. They split the logs as they wish and usually these are not straight. A plank which is not split straight, results in a big loss. A huge amount of wastage occurs at the time of utilization of these planks. At the time of measuring the planks after splitting, your carpenter adroitly favours the wood splitter. He obtains his commission, over and above the

customary one, from the wood splitter as well. The owner is usually left with about 75% worth of his expenditure, loosing an overall 25% on his deal.

After the operation of wood splitter, there comes the carpenter. He cuts both ends of the planks and eliminates all the knots. He uses only the best and clean planks. The carpenter converts the end pieces and the knots into fuel. They make off with this fuel in the presence, as well as in the absence, of the owner.

The carpenters construct brackets, ventilators, and the windows, etc, in a short time with disregard to quality. They do not put the glue properly inside the joints. As a matter of deception, they just smear it outside, just to show only. The hinges are just hammered into place on the brackets instead of screwing them properly. This reduces their labour to half for the same charges. They deliberately fix the door planks etc, inside the brackets in such a manner that repairs are needed after a couple of months. The load is transferred from the wall on to the brackets and then on to the door planks, resulting in the need for early repairs.

The real practice is to allow a gap of one eighth of an inch at the top and bottom of the planks in that bracket. The screws for the hinges must be properly screwed and tightened. The roof should have iron girders instead of wooden logs. These girders should not be placed more than four, or four and a half, feet apart from each other. The wooden pieces spanning these should be 3 by 4 inches thick. The size of girders should be 4 by 8 inches if the span is sixteen feet, and 3 by 6 inches if the span is of twelve to fourteen feet. Flat iron rails may have a span of 12 to 14 feet, while iron rods may do for a span of 8 to 10 feet. Every iron girder or rail end should rest on a stone slab of 12 by 12 by 3 inches. The interspanning wooden spars must have pine-wood-blocks of half-inch thickness on their top-ends.

Foundations for a Modern Construction

Where the soil is firm, a foundation dug three feet deep and two feet wide may suffice. It should be compacted with an iron rammer. One foot thick layer of crush is sufficient. The crush is to spread in two stages. In the first stage, spread a layer of six inches and ram it down thoroughly. Then spread a second layer of six inches and again ram it thoroughly. Now put a layer of bricks with mortar, two feet and nine inches thick. On top of these bricks put a layer one foot thick solid lime mortar. Now lay a two foot wide layer of bricks with mortar. Leave a

gap (shelf type) of six inches on either side. This layer should be strengthened by putting the mortar on both sides.

If the ground is soft all around, adopt the following to ensure economy. Dig up foundations up to the firm layer of soil. Fill it up with the crush and compact it as per the procedure explained above. Put 3-foot-square spans below the firm foundation-layer. You can build up to three storeys high on such a foundation.

The thickness of the walls for the first-storey should be one-and-half-foot, for the second it should be thirteen-inches and for the third-storey it should be nine-inches. Use lime-mortar. Use the fully soaked bricks. Mix 20 to 25% lime in the crush for the foundations. One must be careful while receiving the bricks from the kiln. The kiln owners usually cheat by mixing second class bricks with the first class, and third class bricks with the second class bricks. Moreover, a carriage is normally loaded with three hundred and fifty double bricks. These are often less than the required numbers. A clever coachman would stack these in such a way that it is not easy to detect cheating. The coachman would make you count these as complete in numbers. They do it cleverly by leaving big gaps inside the heap and closing the gaps as they progress upwards. The end result is that they show you seventeen and half pillars of twenty bricks each. In reality the number is less.

On some of the large construction works, in the absence of the owner, the work-supervisors get in league with the kiln-owners or their munshies (clerks). They obtain receipts for 12 or 13 carriages, whereas actually only ten arrive to the site. They confirm to the owner the receipt of the fictitious number and divide the cost of the excess carriages among them.

The other major loss is caused through supply of second class bricks instead of first class, in the absence of the owner. Before the arrival of the owner, the workmen immediately consume these bricks in the construction works. If a contractor is employed on contract basis, he would cheat on the quality of the construction work. If you place a sub-overseer to supervise their work, the contractor would corrupt him through offering him a commission and would continue indulging in his malpractice. I have hardly ever seen a millionaire, who spends millions on a construction work, and gets the work done under his own supervision. Does he avoid exposing himself to extreme weather conditions, whether it is very hot or cold?

On the contrary, I have undergone indescribable hardships during my construction jobs. I used to supervise my masons/architects and

labourers during the scorching heat of June/July. I used to supervise their work the whole day, from morning till evening, without any break. I never took a day off. One should expect some signs of progress after such hard work. But what is the use of this hard work if your children turn out to be worthless and ungrateful.

If we employ the masons and the labourers on daily wages, they would try avoiding work most of the time. They start gossiping; the moment they find that there is no supervision by the owner. One will go to answer the call of nature while another would be loitering around. One leaves for his meals while another finds a cool corner for a nap. They are all present at the time of arrival of the owner and start working like a well-oiled machine. It makes the owner happy that the job is being done well, while in fact he is a great loser. No one complains to him because everyone gets his share in the easy time. Well! You can not avoid losses if you are ignorant. You have to involve yourself with the workers day and night, to appreciate the true conditions and to obtain all the benefits.

Moreover, a person not familiar with purchase of limestone also gets cheated badly. After the negotiations, the cost is decided to be one rupee per maund (Indian unit of weight, 37.4 kg), but the quality of material supplied is of annas ten per maund. If you want to get a full measure of the limestone, you must measure yourself the load of every carriage. You must keep a calibrated wood stick at the site for this purpose. May be by this method they supply you full measure otherwise you never get limestone in full measure.

Here is a way you can distinguish the limestone of one kiln from another. Take about half a pound of limestone from each kiln and soak it separately in some water to make two balls. Strike these balls with each other after 48 hours. The ball of limestone which disintegrates on impact is of a poor quality while the one which does not break is of a superior quality. In a similar manner you can check the quality of the bricks. Take separate buckets and place a brick each of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quality in them. Pour an equal quantity of water in the buckets and soak the bricks completely. Take the bricks out after exactly one hour. Now measure the remaining water in each bucket. The brick which sucks less quantity of water is the better one. A fully baked brick would get soaked up with the least amount of water.

One also gets cheated in the purchase of mud for the construction work. You pay for one hundred cubic feet of earth whereas the quantity delivered is eighty cubic ft only. The trick involved is to show false height

when the coachman lays it out for measurement. He keeps the length and breadth normal but stacks up the four sides higher to increase the height for the measurement. An inexperienced person is easily deceived. The difference in measurement is always due to height manipulation. If you want to avoid a loss on this score, you should level the earth on the top before measurement. Take a long wooden stick and make the middle of the heap level with both the sides with this stick. Now take a wooden plank and place it on this level heap so that about a foot of plank is overhanging. Now measure the height of this plank to know the correct height. This would indicate the correct height. In all other cases the height shown would be wrong and you would get cheated.

On some of the construction jobs the masons and labourers take away wooden pieces/scraps. Some carpenters doing work on contract/daily wages adopt a novel way of cheating. They make some minor items of wood and smuggle these out through their helpers/apprentices when the owner is away. In this case the wood and the time spent on making these items are all charged to the owner. The carpenters get these household items one hundred percent free. What could be better than that?

Some carpenters employed on daily wages cut out all the small or big knots in the planks. They use only the flawless pieces and throw away the defective pieces. But if the carpenter is to be paid for the wood also, he would gladly use all kinds of good or bad planks. He wouldn't care for the knots.

Anyhow, construction business demands a vast experience if you wish to be successful in it. An inexperienced person would always suffer a loss in this business. This is a business where everyone and anyone can earn a dishonest penny. The least or most important workers are equally prone to cheating. When the building is complete, three tiers/rows of bricks should be laid on top of all the side walls with lime mortar and then a layer of cement be added on top. A house with a sound and proper foundation would be safe from all dangers to come.

Here are some tips for the roofs. A roof open to rain-water should have a half inch thick layer of sand on top of the wooden beams. A layer of flat bricks should be laid on the sand. On the top of these bricks apply one inch thick layer of mud. In the next step put about three inches thick layer of crush on top and beat it with the 'hand rammer' to make it an even, smooth, and compact surface. In the final stage it is to be plastered with a mixture of one inch thick layer of mud and wheat-husk. On top of the mud plaster put a layer of bricks or tiles with lime mortar. Make

a mixture of limestone and water and apply it in every nook/crack and niche. You don't need to seal the space between the bricks any further with plaster. Such a roof is guaranteed not to leak ever as a result of rains nor would it need any repairs ever after.

Another method is to avoid use of crush and the top layer of bricks. In this case you would need annual mud-plastering well before the rainy season. The readers should not forget that a building should never be constructed on borrowed money/loan with an interest. You are likely to lose your house in payment of the interest. The constant worry will also have a negative effect on your health.

Some Important Instructions

Never envy a relation or friend/acquaintance of yours on his attaining a superior status or becoming rich. Try to follow his ways and pray to the Almighty to bless you in the same manner and make you rich too.

Keep an account of your income and expenditure. Try to increase your income and decrease your expenses. A person who keeps his accounts and keeps on trying to increase his income and avoids wasteful expenses, turns rich in a short while.

Do not go to a theater or to places of entertainment. This is a waste of money and time. You are likely to fall into a bad company there.

Do not take any intoxicants. These are very harmful. Firstly you waste your money. Secondly, the faculties of the brain deteriorate. Thirdly, health is seriously impaired. Fourthly, you join a bad company of the vagabonds. Some of these intoxicants like opium, etc, follow you to the grave. It is essential to avoid every kind of intoxication. You must shun even tobacco, cigar, bidi (hand-rolled flavoured cigarette), and pan (betel leaves), etc.

You must not join in games like football and cricket, etc., because you lose time for business.

Never form a partnership with anyone in business or trade. Start with whatever little capital you have. With hard work you will make progress.

To go for listening to music/singing and enjoying a dance performance is harmful. Avoid it as far as possible.

Do not be enticed by an 'alchemist' (deceiver). Do not yield to his glibness. These 'alchemist' tricksters usually follow the rich. They convince him by showing very extraordinary tricks. The person being worked upon

becomes convinced of their genuineness. Remember, no 'alchemist' is ever truthful. One of them will tell about making of gold and another about the currency notes. Never have faith in whatever an alchemist claims. In all cases, he is going to deceive you. It is better to remain at bay from an alchemist. Worldly greed will result in great loss.

Beware of the con men. They are those who fleece the simpletons by throwing artificial jewelry away. Few people join in and they throw some artificial jewelry on a thoroughfare and whosoever happens to pick it up they make him believe that it was the real jewelry. They take away his money through this deception. Such happenings are reported in the newspapers day in and day out.

One should protect himself from the swindlers. The mode of operation of swindlers is that they form a group. They keep on tracking a person who seems rich. Being on the lookout, they find a rich gentleman. One of the swindlers (we call him Tom) develops a friendship with him. He keeps on expanding the relations to the extent that he occasionally starts bringing fruit etc. for the children. The friendship develops further. After a few days another person from the group of swindlers (let's call him Dick) calls on he targeted person. He sits there showing proper etiquette. He request him to listen to his petition. It is to be noted that the person approaches the target dressed up most formally, wearing many rings, watch, chains etc. With an air of awe he starts narrating about his friendship with Tom and tells that Tom is annoyed with him and had stopped talking to him.

He will implore you to arrange a patch-up between the old friends for the love of God, and for this you will earn lot of blessings. The God and his Apostle like reconciliation. You will loose nothing.

Dick would talk in such a nice and affectionate manner that you tell him that when Tom visits next time you will talk to him about this. After this meeting he goes away. Tom comes to you the next day as usual and you strongly recommend a reconciliation between him and Dick. You tell Tom to forgive the mistake of Dick as he is so very regretful and desirous of rapprochement. Tom listens to all this impassively and tells you to never again mention the name of Dick in his presence. He tells you that he had helped Dick to become a millionaire from a pauper, but he never received a single word of thanks from him. He askss you to forget about rapprochement if you consider him (Tom) your friend and well-wisher. Most of the worldly people are covetous. The listener also becomes greedy and requests to know as to how Dick has become rich.

Readers! Both these men, Tom and Dick, are members of a gang

of swindlers. Observe how they entangle their prey in their web of lies. Now the prey requests them to be told the secret of getting rich and promises to be grateful to Tom for the rest of his life.

Tom tells you that he wouldn't lose anything if he tells you the secret, except that he is sure to lose a good friend just as it happened in case of Dick. Now you try to convince him that God has not created all men equal. You state emphatically that you wouldn't be like Dick at all. Tom now states that he loves and respects you so much that he would reveal the secret on his next visit if you press him that much, and he leaves.

The next day Dick arrives and asks you if you have discussed the rapprochement as he saw Dick in your company the previous day. Dick still displays the gold chains, rings and costly wrist watch, which in fact, are all artificial. His attire, as usual, is magnificent. The conversation of the previous day between you and Tom rings in your ears and you ask Dick if he really had been made a millionaire by Tom. You also ask him the reason of estrangement between him and Tom. Dick replies that the reason is confidential, but that he would reveal it in his self interest. He tells that he was a poor and needy person. He could hardly earn his daily bread. He developed friendship with Tom all by chance. Tom taught him a game in which he acquired efficiency with ease. That was a game of cards called 'poker'. Tom started to take him along to his wealthy friends and Nawabs (Nabobs), after observing his expertise in the game. He used to win thousands of rupees on such occasions. So, that was the story of how he became rich.

You promise to try further and Dick leaves you. After a couple of days Tom reappears and a sweet conversation takes place. When you listen to the same story, narrated separately by Tom and the Dick, you get convinced. You also become desirous to be a millionaire in a short time, by acquiring the trick of cards from Tom. So you start requesting Tom to teach you the trick in the name of Allah. You promise to be grateful to him for the rest of your life. Tom tells you that there is only one way that you can be told this secret. He tells that you have to take an oath on the Qur'ān in a mosque to keep this secret, and never to reveal it to any other soul. So you make the desired commitment. Tom takes you along to a mosque and a copy of the holy Qur'ān is placed in your hands and you are required to repeat your promise to never reveal the secret to another soul throughout your life. Tom tells you to consider yourself a millionaire from now on, but once again stresses the need to maintain secrecy. Now Tom starts teaching you the tricks of the games

of cards, and you achieve proficiency in a week or ten days. Tom assures you that you have acquired great skill and proficiency in the game.

Now Tom takes you to a gorgeously decorated mansion. He pretends that it belongs to a very rich merchant. He tells you that this merchant is very well off, respectable, and owns a lot of property. The merchant is stated to be very much interested in the game of poker. You observe that the house has golden draperies, plush carpets on the floor, chairs, tables and all kinds of furniture. In short, it is a very well decorated house, like of a lord. There are five or ten servants in attendance.

It is proper to inform the readers that all this decorative stuff and furniture have been obtained on rent. Likewise all the servants and attendants are actors. The so-called 'master of the house' is sitting on the carpet in a royal type costume and in a regal posture. When you approach the merchant, he accords due respect to you, and asks your teacher, Tom as to why has he visited after such a long break. The merchant inquires about his welfare and asks about Dick who used to accompany him on his previous visits. Tom tells him that Dick has fallen out with him and they are no longer friends. The merchant expresses great regret and says that Dick was quite unlucky as he won only rupees one lakh (one hundred thousand) from him. He further tells that he (Dick) would have won much more if he had continued visiting along with Tom.

He then asks Tom as to whom this stranger was. Tom introduces you as a poker player, who is very much interested in the game. The merchant replies that it was all right as he only wanted to satisfy his craving. Then the merchant calls his servant and orders him to bring the small bag of money. The servant goes and fetches a bag of money with a little difficulty. It was made to look as if it contained four or five thousand rupees. The servant places this bag close to the merchant. Now the thing to be noted in this respect is that the bag is filled with half anna coins and only about hundred one-rupee coins are placed on top to give the impression that the bag is full of one rupee coins.

The merchant now places the deck of cards in front of you and requests you to start the game. Tom at once declines and asks him to start. The merchant himself deals the cards and then says that he does not see any money with us. He tells us that this bag which contains rupees three thousand belongs to him and he expects us to place a similar amount on the table. Only then would he allow the cards to be seen, and the stakes considered as having been made. Now, you are not

ready for such a thing, and have not taken any money along as you did not know that a game would be played. So you state that you have not brought any money along. Tom intervenes immediately and says that it is all right. Tomorrow at this time we shall call again with money. The merchant replies all right, no problem. We would play the game tomorrow. Now Tom picks up the cards in front of you and shows them to you. The cards show that you would have won. Tom expresses regrets and tells that you would have won this bag of three thousands rupees, if you had brought the money along. Now Tom takes you along, saying goodbye to the merchant. He instructs you to arrange the money for tomorrow, by this time. He also tells you that the money is required just for display; as you were bound to win under all circumstances. He exhorts you to bring along as much money as you could manage.

So the subject (that is “you”) gets the money through mortgage or a loan, etc, and the game of poker is played the next day in the presence of Tom. The merchant and you start putting the stakes. Now the point to ponder for the readers is that whenever you win, it is a small amount but whenever you lose, it is a bigger amount. Ultimately you lose your entire amount in this winning and losing affair. The merchant shows you his big money bags and makes you lose all your ornaments, or property documents, etc. He wins all.

All through this affair Tom will keep on encouraging you by saying that it is all right, tomorrow we will win. But the end result is that you lose all your money which you had collected from your friends, relations or through mortgage. You lose everything.

When the tricksters are sure that you have nothing more to lose, they would vanish during the night. There would be nothing but an empty house to look at.

Then you realize that it was all a deception and a trick. You have lost twenty thousand or may be fifty thousand rupees but you can not complain to anyone. So what can not be cured, must be endured. You can do nothing more or less!

Readers! Please note that all those three persons, Tom, Dick and the merchant were members of a gang of thugs. They tricked you mercilessly and reduced you to licking dust. You lost your property, ornaments, and every possession. You even incurred a debt from your relations and friends. What is to be done now? Where to go? Repentance and resignation is your only option left.

Readers, greed lands you in the clutches of the thugs. The thugs are still present. One should be careful not to be tricked by them.

A little about gambling is stated to safeguard the readers from this evil.

The gamblers take a piece of bone and cut two eight-sided cubes from it. Coloured marks are made on all the sides. They throw these dice and play a game for money.

Another kind of gambling is by throwing of small sea shells. Four different colours are filled in these. The four gamblers choose a colour each for them. These are thrown on a "cross" made of cloth.

Another kind of gambling requires three cards from a deck, i.e. the gamblers take three cards consisting of a King, a two, and a three from the pack of cards and place themselves on the edge of a thoroughfare. A gambler shuffles these three cards placed before him. His accomplice entices the unwary passersby for gambling and makes them lose.

The fourth type of gambling also employs cards. It is called 'prail' in common. This involves cheating. The gambling done by the gambler among them is called "slate", meaning the true and honorable gambling. The one type they play for swindling the other people and the passerbyes is called "khunt", meaning cheating. A new person enticed by the gamblers is called "dhur".

So, there are many types of gambling. Gambling is forbidden in all religions. Islam especially strictly prohibits all types of gambling. Even otherwise it is against the law.

Readers are sincerely advised to desist from gambling completely, if they wish to spend a good and tension-free life and wish to spread goodness in the world. If they wish to prosper in life and be happy, they should avoid the company of the gamblers at all cost. If you do not avoid the above-mentioned evils, then one can only mourn your stupidity and bad fate.

Some ladies carry on certain activities in their house, without the permission of their husbands. This is harmful and leads to a total loss. When the ladies visit other houses on the occasion of a marriage or death ceremony, they observe the other ladies putting on new fashionable ornaments and dresses. It is but natural for them to demand similar type of ornaments from their husbands when they return home. If a husband is not rich, the wife would get the old ornaments converted into the current designs through the services of a servant or a lady/friend from the neighbourhood. It is quite surprising that the husband remains ignorant of it. Even if the poor fellow comes to know about it, the woman would make him agree through threats or seduction, as the situation demands.

Readers! It is in your own interest to reflect on the fact that one

loses about 12 to 15 percent when an old ornament is redesigned. This includes all the repairs, soldering, polishing and the labour charges of the goldsmith. Just imagine an ornament worth two hundred rupees being thus converted and recasted twice or thrice. How much one would lose. It may vanish altogether and be a dead loss.

Women have a system of collective savings called “committee” in most of the houses. That is harmful! To get back your own money after 10 or 12 months, without any remuneration or benefit can not be considered good. It is often observed that women start contributing to these “committees” without taking permission from their husbands. It often happens that the woman entrusted with safekeeping of the cash embezzles it. Just because it is an unauthorized transaction, it can not be reported. The woman treasurer also knows that the matter would not be reported to the husbands as their prior permission has not been obtained. It makes it easier for her to misappropriate the money. It becomes a dead loss for the other women. If a woman must save through a ‘committee’, it would be far wiser for her to have a little box to put her savings in it on daily/weekly or monthly basis. She may take out the amount when needed. It will give her two advantages. Firstly, her own money remains in her own possession all the time; secondly it will be available for the husband as and when required. If one can not do that, then there are many other ways. One should deposit it in the savings bank on weekly or monthly basis. One can deposit even one-quarter rupee in that account. One can withdraw his or her savings, along with the profit, at any time. In spite of all these things, it is absolutely useless for women to save through buying ornaments or the committees because the end result is always a loss.

There are gentlemen who proudly declare that their wife is so intelligent and wise that she herself gets her ornaments cast, and handles her “committees”, too. Alas! These poor gentlemen consider a serious fault in their women as an asset. One should restrain the women from such wasteful expenditures. There are many detestable customs in our country. We should shun all of these.

You observe many “wise-enemies” these days. They incite you to be a spendthrift. They tell you to celebrate the circumcision of your son as he has grown up now. They also tell you to do it with a great pomp and show. It does not matter if you do not have ready money. You may mortgage your house and get a loan. Such happy occasions do not come by everyday. It does not matter even if you can not repay the loan during your lifetime. If you do not spend a lot, your family/clan will not give you

the respect you deserve. All your relations will point their fingers at you and call you a miser. That would be the usual line of their advice. Readers! Be beware of these 'wise-enemies' and avoid them as far as possible. Do not allow them to lead you astray. Try to avoid all these detestable customs involving bands, dance, display of fire works, etc.

Although I have already spoken about the harmful effects of "charas (cannabis) smoking", yet I would like to explain it a little more. In Australia, there was a period when I lived in the company of charas smokers.

A Durrani Pathan (a tribe of the Afghans) named Ghulam Muhammad was living there. He was addicted to charas. One day there was none to keep him company. He asked me to stay with him, because he would not get intoxicated unless he had company while taking charas. He further told me that he would not get the kick unless another charas smoker coughs in front of him after taking charas. I told him, of course jokingly, that I can not smoke charas but I can cough sitting in front of him. And for this job, he would have to pay me one sovereign. He at once took out a one-pound coin and put it in my hands. He asked me to start coughing like a 'charsi'. I pocketed the coin and he started smoking. I started coughing like the charas smokers, in front of him. He got quite a kick out of my coughing like that.

Readers, how strange it is that I profited from the company of charas smokers, instead of losing. It is, otherwise, a well known dictum that you adapt to the company you keep. Readers! You should do the likewise but never let the bad company prevail upon you.

Drinking also enslaves you. A drunkard also does not get intoxicated unless he has the company of another drunkard. He does not like drinking alone. A drunkard spends his own money on drinks and begs others to join him in drinking. When the other fellow gets addicted, he also starts spending his own money for the drinks. He attains the dubious distinction of being called a "drunkard". There is a saying that, "free drink is permissible even to a Qazi (judge)".

Readers! Our countrymen have a weakness. On observing some evil habits, they succumb to these, very easily. One should, therefore, avoid the evil and bad company as far as possible. You get benefited in this world, as well as in the Hereafter, if you follow this advice. There is a very clear and enlightening saying in our Punjabi language that "one should not ask the name of a village if he does not intend going there".

So, to cut a long story short, a young person, when he inherits his parents' property or gets a sufficient wealth, he will soon find himself

surrounded by new friends who would take him to the brothel house, while praising him in his face. They would tell him that God has made him rich and fortunate. He should get fame in the world. He should live like a lord and a Nawab (Nabob) and enjoy himself by indulging in merry making. He should value the company of friends. They would thus encourage him to visit the houses of ill repute. The brothel keepers call such visitors as “my dear gentleman”. In their parlance only a person visiting their stall with the intention of wasting his money and energy deserves the honour of being called “my dear gentleman”. When this young man takes his seat there, the “Naika’ (Madame) would give a signal to a prostitute who would come and embrace the shy young fellow. After a few days the prostitute would tell the young man that her life without him is meaningless and she feels very lonely without his company. She would tell him that whatever she owns belongs to him.

After expressing such sweet sentiments she would immediately strike the iron while it is hot. She would express a demand for bangles of a new fashion and silk cloth of the latest variety. Cotton cloth for the baggy trousers would also be needed. In short she would make all sorts of demands. The young man would keep on complying. When she is confirmed in her views that the young fellow has been smitten by the love bug, she would present the demand for a house. She would tell him that she is for him alone and he should be all for her. She would say that she can not live without him so he would have to get a house constructed for her. In short the prostitute would reduce that young fellow to a pauper. When that young fellow after having fed her and wasting all of his property goes to her penniless, she would behave as if she did not know him. She will get him disgraced and thrown out by her other lovers

Money is a thing that everyone desires. Even the religious leaders cherish it and they are very greedy. They would always present to you such propositions which cause you monetary losses. You must, therefore, keep yourself away from these big-bearded religious scholars.

A Few Tips on House Keeping

There should be a particular box or trunk for dirty clothes. After change over of dress the dirty clothes should immediately be put in that box. When required, a cloth can be taken out from the box conveniently. You do not have to search for it, nor will you waste any time. Further, never keep a dirty or torn cloth in the house. Immediately cater for its cleaning and repair.

Similarly there should be a specified place to keep boots and slippers. When boots or slippers are changed, the replaced ones should be put at their appropriate place.

About Taking of Meals

There should be a fixed time for the meals. All members of the family, young and old, should take their place at the dining table. Meals should be taken on a table. If you do not like to use a table, then use a dining cloth spread on the floor. Similarly, have fixed timings for tea. All family members, young and old, should assemble for tea at the appointed hour. The dining table or the cloth should be aesthetically laid out and the meals arranged in a proper manner. The servants should remove all utensils/items from the table/cloth when the dinner is over. These should be cleaned and placed carefully on the shelves/almirahs at their appropriate places. This way you avoid the breakage of the crockery. You find them readily available as and when required.

The master of the house should have a weekly count of the crockery. If any item like a glass etc. is found lying on the floor, it should be placed on the table, mantle-piece or some other proper place, along with other items. (*Note.* It is appropriate for a servant to give an advance notice of two days for the replenishment of provisions.)

Cleaning of Utensils

Fill a tub with hot water. Dip all the crockery in it. Fix a piece of cloth to a wooden baton and use it for removing grease from all the utensils as a first step. Then rinse and dry all items and place them properly on the shelves. You will thus save your utensils from rusting. They wouldn't gather dust and the tub/bucket etc, would not get dirty. It is a health hazard to eat in dirty utensils. Get this job done by the maids/servants in your spare time but always under your own personal supervision.

The Kitchen

The kitchen floor should be washed daily or after every three/four days. The vegetable peelings etc. should be kept in a covered bin. It should be emptied twice daily. All things in the kitchen should be kept scrupulously clean and in regular order.

The required quantity of food stuffs to prepare meals, like flour, rice, sugar etc., should be given to the servants by the master/mistress of the house himself/herself. The cooking should be supervised directly. It is the responsibility of the master of the house, or his appointed agent, to supervise the feminine kitchen staff. It would ensure the quality of food and to avoid any loss. The female servants/maids should be given soap twice a week for cleaning their uniforms/dresses. They should look neat and clean all the time. The maids should not be allowed to leave the house without prior permission as it entails a loss for you.

Attending Wood Stoves

The stoves should be of a design to conserve heat. Any flames seen outside the stove should be put down immediately with water. The servants should be trained to conserve the heat from the fire.

Setting the Beds

The maids should lay down the cots and arrange the beds at the appointed hour. In case there are no maids, then the lady of the house should perform this duty.

Dusting the Rooms

The servants/maids present in the house must be made to do this job. If one can not employ servants, then he must do it himself. He may involve his family and children in it. It is a must to carry on dusting / cleaning of the rooms on a daily basis. The furniture should also be dusted.

Cooking of the Meat

Do not fry the meat too much to make it look dark. Not only the weight of the meat is reduced, it upsets your stomach as well, because it will be difficult to digest. Too many spices in the meals spoil the taste. If we use meat boiled in the European style, it would be easily digestible, but less tasty. Anyhow, it would be good for your health and improve your digestion. When you get used to this type of cooking of meat, you would develop a taste for it. It would be better for your appetite and digestion. I have described the advantages of using boiled meat, but of

course, it is up to the readers to act on it.

Cooking of Rice

It is a common practice to strain the rice through a sieve when it is boiled. In this process grains are separated from the rice juice, which is thrown away. This is a sure way of making the boiled rice losing value. The taste of rice is also affected by this treatment. It would be better not to waste the real worth of the rice by throwing the starch after boiling the rice.

Guest Quarters

All items taken to the guest room should be handed over after due counting. These should be counted again when received back. This would eliminate pilferage.

Knife and Fork

All knives and forks should be kept in a box. They should be counted daily at night. A servant should wipe them on daily basis so they do not get rusty. The English "cleaning dust cake" and other necessary items should be provided for this purpose. The children should be disciplined to avoid damage to the crockery and cutlery.

The Rainy Season

It is quite harmful to sleep in the open on the roof top during the rainy season and the month after it. If you sleep on the roof, your cot must be protected from the dew by a cover/shade. If there is no shade, a weak or an old person may be exposed to a mortal danger. The usual custom in Punjab is to sleep in the open without any shade. Well, one should at least take the precaution of not wrapping up the bed while it is still moist due to the dew. Before wrapping, it must be spread in the sun for drying up completely. If you wrap it up without drying, it would develop an odour. It may cause malaria or other sickness when used again. One must NOT stock wheat in this season. It will develop a kind of worm, and a bad taste too. It may cause malaria if you use it. Wheat flour containing dust/sand is harmful to use. It may cause stone in the bladder. You must avoid it. The flour should be neither too fine nor too

coarse. The average type of flour should be used.

Protecting the Children

A child must not be allowed to handle a match box. Many a children have expired due to this carelessness. Do not make your child wear ornaments. If you do so, you are like an enemy to your child. A greedy thief would often kill a child to rob him of his ornaments. Do not allow your child to climb the roof top, especially in the kite flying season. Keep your children away from this stupid hobby which endangers their life. On the roof top they keep walking forward while looking at the skies. This results in fatal falls. Due this carelessness hundreds of children die every year.

Do not let your children go near the rivers/streams during the rainy season. The rivers are usually flooding during this season. They may lose their lives by drowning.

Bedstead, chairs and other furniture

Readers! If you desire to have life-long service from your furniture, you must protect them from moisture as well as sun. All types of furniture need this protection. This care will enhance their durability. The children should be advised to desist from mounting the chairs to take down hanging articles. This would damage the chair and render them useless earlier. The children should use a wooden stool for this purpose.

Winter Clothing

Winter clothing should be aired in the sun twice or thrice in a year especially in the rainy season. If it is not done, the winter clothing, whether stitched or unstitched, are likely to get infested by moth and remain no longer usable. If the warm clothes are not spread in the sun, they will become useless. They are to be aired and spread in the sun for only as long as to dry up the moisture. If they remain in the sun longer their colour will get spoiled. Similarly, a human being, whether a man or a woman, who sits in the sun, becomes tanned. Sun is especially harmful for a woman. Her white complexion turns dark. It is observed that the European ladies normally carry an umbrella, whether it is summer or winter. This is because the Europeans like fair-skinned women.

Handing Over of Condiments to the Cook

If the work is limited and the quantity of cooking pots is less, then the master of the house can himself dish out the condiments to the cook. When there is more work and the quantity of cooking pots is very large than it is a must for the master of the house to detail a responsible person for the job of supplying condiment. He would dish out to the cook the required material under his own supervision. The utensils are handed over to him after counting them.

The man so appointed should act as follows:

He should made under his supervision, or should himself, put the meat for the gravy in the cauldrons, and should after extraction of the gravy take over the custody of the meat. The meat should be staked according to the number of the cauldrons separately. He should himself put each stack of meat in each cauldron. He should use a special utensil for dishing out rice for each cauldron. For one cauldron 16 seers of rice are required. He should give rice to the cook by measuring it with the help of this standard utensil. The cook is to be informed regarding the quantity of the rice being given to him. The rice is also to be soaked in water under his own supervision. The cook should not be given dry rice at all. In short, all the condiments should be given to the cook in the same way.

All utensils are to be accounted for before giving to the cook and are to be received from him after duly counted.

About the Marriage/Condolence Functions

All items of the household are to be secured at the occasions of marriage etc., due to the excessive arrivals and departures of the people. Some ordinary utensils of daily use, and common items of bedding, blankets, sheets, towels, quilt, etc. may be placed outside for use. A list of these items is required to be prepared. The rest of the items are to be secured. After the ceremony is over, the list is to be checked to find out if there are any losses. There are many women who take away items by hiding these in their veils. As far as possible, no utensils should be sent out.

Obtain a proper receipt from a person when lending him any floor mats or utensils for use. In case there is no receipt, the master of the house must remember it. The best policy is not to lend any items to any one. In case an item is lent, then it should not be lent with the hope of receiving it back.

Addendum concerning Construction

If the readers desire to have a building constructed strong and durable, ensuring economy in construction, be it on contract basis or on piece rate basis, in both cases it is essential that the master should be always present during the work in progress. The reason is that if the construction is carried out on contract basis, and master is not present, it will be up to the masons to use the dry items or to keep the walls hollow. They will deceive the master by improving only the outlook of the building by using lime, plaster and whitewash, etc. The following saying suits this type of construction "the grave is made of lime but the dead body in it had no faith." The building will not be complete, straight, and as erect, as it should be.

If the owner remains present at the site, sure enough the masons of the contractor would not be able to deceive him. They will also work for ten to eleven hours, instead of working only for eight hours.

During the construction work the masons do not care whether a brick is good or bad, or whether it is needed at that particular place or not. Whichever brick comes handy they plant it regardless whether it is dry, is actually required to be fixed, or is a bad one. They want to increase the measure of their output only. If the owner does not know about the method of measurement, the contractor will take away excess amount from him, to ensure that nothing is due from the master. Actually the master must keep 25% of the amount due to the contractor with him. This amount should be paid only at the end of the construction work.

In case the contractor receives an over-payment, he will leave while the work is still incomplete. But if the contractor is under paid by 25% or 30%, then he will not be able to go without completing the work. In case the readers are not in a position to bear the trouble of being present on the work site, then they should get the services of a dependable, capable, hard working, and honest mason, or a well-wisher relative is to be deputed for the job.

If the construction work is undertaken by employing the masons, even then it is difficult to cope with the workers. Instead of working for 8 hours, they will work for 6 hours. They will keep smoking hubble-bubble, with great enthusiasm. They think their daily wage has been fixed and now they have just to pass the day and they could not care less if the work is completed or not. The owner is a loser in this situation also.

Only that master can gain from the construction work who is himself

well-versed in construction job, knows the purchasing of material as for its required quantity, can keep supervising the work all the time, or is able to get an honest well-wisher for supervision. Apart from this, there is no other way that a master of the building can be a winner in comparison with the masons.

It is made clear to the Readers that whenever they undertake any construction work, they must not use second or third quality bricks. Everywhere, inside or outside, they must use only high quality bricks. Inferior quality bricks get damaged and deteriorate very quickly.