

حسين بن علي المناعي في يوميات بلجريف (نص رقم 1)

السبت 9 فبراير 1929م (ص 16-17)

.. يعاني الشيخ (1) من قلة الأموال ، وكما هي العادة ؛ فإنه طلب المزيد من النقود ، لقد قال لي : بأن رجلَ دينٍ ، كبيرَ السنِّ من قلالي (2) ، أشار عليه ، في شكل اقتراح ؛ بأن يطالب بمزيد من المال من الدخل . إن هذا الرجل الكبير في السن مزعج ، وأغلب الظن أنه أرسل إليه من طرف كانوا. وفي واقع الأمر، فقد قمتُ بدفع عشرة آلاف روبية لحسابه الخاص مؤخراً . ولكن ، لا يمكن إرضائه (3) أبداً، حتى لو كان معه عشرة أضعاف ما حصل عليه الآن ، فإنه سيظل يبكي لطلب المزيد .

1- يقصد : الشيخ عبدالله بن عيسى آل خليفة .

2- يقصد : حسين بن علي المناعي ، الذي كان مقرباً من الشيخ عبدالله ، وصديقاً للتاجر يوسف بن أحمد كانوا .

3- يقصد : الشيخ عبدالله.

Saturday 9 February 1929

Court. Shaikh Abdulla bin Isa came round in the morning and had a long talk about the murder case, so awkward talking of it to him and knowing that he is one of the people who is said to have been behind some of the murders. He was very excited evidently as his hand shook all the time, but he spoke very cleverly and even mentioned, as an example, someone who had wished to kill his own brother. He himself is said to have been at the back of the attempt on the Shaikh. He was very anxious to see the evidence in the case. Talked about it for about an hour and then got on with the Court. In the afternoon I went up to see the Shaikh at his house in the town where he was lunching. One of his wives lives in it and she always complains that he treats her so badly. He gives her a very meagre allowance on which she has to feed herself, dress and pay servants and provide a lunch for him whenever he is in Manama, but he generally doesn't come to eat it. She is a plain women like a camel but very strictly purdah, people suppose that he hides her not because she is pretty but being ashamed of having so plain a wife. Discussed various things. The Shaikh suggested postponing the murder case for six months typical of him, anything to shelve unpleasant work. Finally he said we would go down to the Agency and discuss it with Barrett. I was expected at the Agency to play tennis. We went down and sat on the tennis Court talking to Barrett who as usual was very undecided. Didnt get much good out of it. Then the Shaikh went and I changed and played tennis. Dined at the Strakers in the evening, also present the Barretts. One does get so sick of seeing the same people over and over again. The Shaikh is very low financially and is calling out for more money as usual, he told me that a certain old religious man from Galali had called on him and apparently suggested to him that he should demand more money from the revenues. A very mischievous old person but probably sent to him from Kanoo. As a matter of fact I paid 10,000 rupees into his private account quite lately but he will never be satisfied, if he had ten times what he has now he would always cry for more.

حسين بن علي المناعي في يوميات شارلز بلجريف (نص رقم 2)

الأربعاء 20 مارس 1929م (ص 31-32)

ذهبت إلى المحكمة بناءً على طلب الشيخ*، مع أنني لم أر سببا في طلبي للحضور. كان حاضرا هناك رجل دين ، مُسن ، يبدو عليه التعب ، يُدعى حسين المناعي ، وهو رجل فاضل ونبييل ، مُتقدّم في العمر ، ذو لحية بيضاء طويلة ، يتحدث بصوت عالٍ ، لكنه يمتلك سمعة دينية رفيعة. هو وآخرون تورطوا في خلاف ، أدى في النهاية إلى شجار بين الخدم ، نتجت عنه بعض الإصابات البسيطة . وقام الشيخ بالصلح بينهم ، متحدثا إليهم كأب ، وجعلهم فعلا يقبلون بعضهم بعضا ، بحيث عادوا أصدقاء مرة أخرى. إنه - أي الشيخ - يجيد التعامل مع وقائع من هذا النوع .

*يقصد : الشيخ حمد بن عيسى آل خليفة ، ولي العهد آنذاك .

Wednesday 20 March 1929

Shaikh Abdulla al Khalifa, the Shaikh's brother, came to see me in the morning, at the same time as a deputation of big pearl merchants about a question in the diving rules. Had an interesting talk with him, discussed the passport question and various other things. He talked about the Shaikh's habit of always trying to lean on somebody else and of always wanting to shelve responsibility. He said it didnt matter so much if he responsibility onto me but it was most unsuitable that he should shove it onto the Political Agent unless it was a matter concerning foreigners. Abdulla is a very shrewd man and sizes people up in no time. Went along to the Joint Court. The Shaikh sent for me though I saw no reason for his wanting me. A tiresome old religious party called Hussein al Menai was there, an aged gentleman with a long white beard, given to shouting but with a reputation for great sanctity. he and others were mixed up in a quarrel that ended in a row between their servants and several minor injuries. The Shaikh made peace between them, talked to them like a father and made them, literally, kiss eachother and make friends again. He is very good at scenes of that sort. Busy in the office till lunch time. Tea and tennis at Mespers. Parke had been out early yesterday to say goodbye to the Shaikh who gave him a bisht, like the one he wears. He was very pleased with it. Dined with de G. Parke was there, staying the night as the boat was due at 5 A.M. on the Thursday. I never quite trust de G's dinners. The cook is such a very messy looking fellow, a Persian, and lives in a very dirty Persian village where all the coolies were deported from Manama by Daly. They call it Thulma bad, meaning the village of oppression, but its official name is Adilabad, the pleasant village. When I first came here, only hearing the first name, I mentioned the name in a proclamation, rather a faux pas. A little rain. Ali bin Hussain came in the morning. He talked of the increasing influence of Koseibi, IbnSaouds Agent. Its a pity that the Shaikh is so terrified of IbnSaoud.