

“order, on 11.1.1753 the Mutasallim sent for the Dutch Resident, who, suspecting nothing untoward, with the usual retinue of his household and staff went to call on him; but, no sooner had he entered than the Mutasallim’s officials laid hands on him and thrust him down into a dungeon along with his interpreter, a Christian from our church, and his “Hindu *sarraḥ*” (i.e. cashier). “When that was done, the Mutasallim called a meeting of the leading Europeans and also the notables of the town, and communicated to them in their presence the arrest of the Dutch Resident at the bidding of Sulaiman Pasha, indicating also that he considered the case of the arrested man was in a bad way.

“The Mutasallim was in a mind to send him back to Batavia with a ship which was about to depart there, and also to bilk him first as much as possible so as to make him all the less encumbered for the journey. Accordingly he protested that he could nohow free him from death, and went to the length of sending an executioner into the prison to influence and intimidate him (Baron Kniphausen) with the livelier fears. Meanwhile those, on whom it should have been incumbent and to whom for furthering the general interests of the Europeans it should have been fair and a fine thing to stand up for him” (Baron Kniphausen), “kept rejoicing at his bonds, even though they might seem, so far as mere show went, to be treating busily with the Mutasallim for his deliverance. Of their number were Mr. Ellis, the English Resident . . . and also (what stinks more foully in the nostrils) the second-in-charge of the Dutch Company himself, Mynheer Vanderoust, who augured the zenith of his own fortunes from the eclipse of his Chief’s to arise from human assistance, as he thought. Kept in prison (Baron Kniphausen), as he had no right to expect any stroke of luck, deemed it more prudent to accommodate himself to the straits in which he was, and gave instructions to Mynheer Vanderoust to satisfy the accursed hunger of the Mutasallim for gold, and pay out to him from the Company’s money 75,000 isolatas. “When that money was inside the Muhammadan alms-box, the Mutasallim began to desist from his talk of capital punishment, and to the feigned prayers and promises of the Europeans he gave up Baron Kniphausen, but only on the stipulation that he (Baron Kniphausen) should be taken by a direct route from the prison on board ship: and this also was done. When the deportee had got on board, the English Resident and the second-in-charge of the Dutch Company, promoted and appointed by the Mutasallim to be the “‘president’ of the Dutch Company with a robe of honour (*kurk* as they call it), began to busy themselves along with the Muhammadans in concocting letters to be sent to Batavia in praise of themselves and warning and impressing” (i.e. on the Council of the Company at Batavia) “the mode of living of the deportee.

“Yet, with his spirit not at all broken, Baron Kniphausen turned over in his undaunted mind how to lead the men hostile to himself and still laying their snares for him into the pit they had digged for him. . . . And in fact two birds were taken in one and the same trap. For, knowing well what a strong enticement money was to the Turks, he secretly sent go-betweens to hint friendly-wise to the Mutasallim that here was a chance lying to his hand to be able with impunity to extract money from the Hindu *sarraḥ*” (cashier) “of the Company, who was considerably rich, and also from Mynheer Vanderoust on the pretext of the robe of honour given for the headship” (of the Company) “which he had attained. The Mutasallim readily gave ear to those who made the suggestion, nothing suspecting that a snake lurked in the grass. So straightway he extorted from the cashier 25,000 isolatas and from Mynheer Vanderoust 30,000. Taken aback at this latest “hurricane”, Mynheer Vanderoust, who previously had been distant and far from well disposed towards Baron Kniphausen, was compelled unwillingly to have recourse for help to him, in order to find means of meeting the charge and impost on himself.

“The latter” (i.e. Baron Kniphausen) “received the ‘refugee’ politely and listened and, manifesting no small wonder over the Mutasallim’s method of acting, in reply to the lamentations of the wailing Mynheer Vanderoust dwelt for a while . . . on the Mutasallim having proceeded very irregularly, when he was snatching money from him” (i.e. Mynheer Vanderoust) “a man guileless of all blemish of human frailty and so recently