

**A CHART OF FAMILY
INHERITANCE: ACCORDING
TO ORTHODOX
MOOHUMMUDAN LAW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649317301

A Chart of Family Inheritance: According to Orthodox Moohummudan Law by Almaric Rumsey

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ALMARIC RUMSEY

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A CHART
OF
FAMILY INHERITANCE,

ACCORDING TO

ORTHODOX MOOHUMMUDAN LAW,

WITH

An Explanatory Treatise.

BY

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Author of "A Chart of Hindu Family Inheritance" ; "Al
Sirajyyah reprinted," &c.*

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

WILLIAM AMER, LINCOLN'S INN GATE, W.C.

Law Bookseller and Publisher.

1871.

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PREFACE.



THE progress of this work has been so satisfactory that the Publisher has only a few copies remaining, and I have been called upon to prepare a Second Edition. On the former occasion the "Chart" was ushered into the world without a preface: it has now done its work so well that it merits, I think, a few words of acknowledgment from its Author. The origin of the book was simple and practical. Having, some years ago, a Privy Council Case to conduct, of which the result, I foresaw, might possibly turn on a question of Moohummudan inheritance, I was anxious to ascertain the exact rights of one or two antagonistic claimants as derived from a deceased relative. To effect this seemed, at first, an impossibility, the English works which I consulted appearing so confused, and, even when intelligible, usually so imperfect or contradictory, that, in popular phraseology, I could "make neither head nor tail of them." In this dilemma I determined to attempt the construction of a Chart or Pedigree for my own use;

and while doing so (with the aid of the Sirajiyah, of which I had luckily discovered a copy in the Library of Lincoln's Inn), I was struck with the idea that what had appeared indispensable to me might not prove unacceptable to others. In order to make the Chart generally intelligible it was necessary to supplement it with a few rules and definitions; and to these I afterwards added some chapters in which the working of the arithmetical problems was exhibited and explained. Thus it was that the first edition of this work came into existence, and I published it in the hope that it might be received as supplying a recognized want. That hope was fully realised. Several eminent professors in England, personally unknown to me, at once declared their intention of adopting it as a text-book in their classes; students and lawyers alike hailed it as setting forth in an intelligible form a subject which had been involved in Cimmerian darkness before; the subsequent sale in India plainly demonstrated that the opinions expressed in England on the first appearance of the book were not given rashly or without sufficient reason. I claim no merit in the matter except that of having pursued the somewhat unusual course of going to the original sources of information and resolutely working out the results for myself. There should be nothing wonderful in the appearance of a clear and correct statement of a

subject which ought to be well understood by all Anglo-Indian lawyers. The only wonder must ever be, that such a treatise as this had not appeared long before; and that circumstance affords a striking instance of the too prevalent indifference as to Indian affairs which is so much deplored by those who take a sincere interest in the welfare of Her Majesty's Eastern Empire.

In preparing the present edition, I have not thought it necessary to make any alteration in the general arrangement of the book. The "Chart," though somewhat different in appearance (the lines and spaces being more symmetrically arranged) is, in substance, the same as before. In revising the text and notes I have endeavoured to expunge all typographical errors, and, here and there, to make the explanations clearer and the references more complete. As regards the last mentioned point, there is an entirely new feature in the present edition. Each reference to the *Sirajiyah* now consists of *two* numbers; the first indicating the page in the old edition of 1792, the second, that in the "*Sirajiyah* reprinted,"* which has been published since the appearance of the first edition of this work. I have also added an Index, which, though perhaps not absolutely necessary in the case of so

* "*Al Sirajiyah* reprinted; with Notes and Appendix by Almaric Rumsey." Amer, Lincoln's Inn Gate.