

A civilization of free men

The people of great Greek civilization were too living in a dangerous world. These highly civilized people were surrounded by barbarous tribes and were often threatened by Persia. That great civilization achieved heights of success in the world due to its principle of freedom. These free men, lesser in number and unequipped, proved to be a strong force against mighty empires. Greeks remained unconquered due to this free men force, working for their glory. The Greek civilization lost all its glory and honour when this principle of freedom decayed in the civilization.

Word. 95

PRÉCIS
Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1989

Passage.

The Greatest" civilization before ours was the Greek. They, too, lived in a dangerous world. They were a little, highly civilized people, surrounded by barbarous tribes and always threatened by the greatest Asian power, Persia. In the end they succumbed, but the reason they did was not that the enemies outside were so strong, but that their spiritual strength had given way. While they had it, they kept Greece unconquered. Basic to all Greek achievements was freedom. The Athenians were the only free people in the world. In the great empires of antiquity— Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia — splendid though they were, with riches and immense power, freedom was unknown. The idea of it was born in Greece, and with it Greece was able to prevail against all the manpower and wealth arrayed against her. At Marathon and at Salamis overwhelming numbers of Persians were defeated by small Greek forces. It was proved there that one free man was superior to many submissively obedient subjects of a tyrant. And Athens, where freedom was the dearest possession, was the leader in those amazing victories. Greece rose to the very height, not because she was big, she was very small, not because she was rich; she was very poor, not even because she was wonderfully gifted. So doubtless were others in the great empires of the ancient world who have gone their way leaving little for us? She rose because there was in the Greeks the greatest spirit that moves in humanity, the spirit that sets men free."

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Passage.

Not all the rulers signed the Instrument of Accession at once. Afraid that the Socialist Congress Party would strip him of his amusements, flying, dancing girls and conjuring delights which he had only just begun to indulge since he had only recently succeeded his father to the throne, the young Maharajah of Jodhpur arranged a meeting with Jinnah. Jinnah was aware that both Hindu majority and geographical location meant that most of the Princely states would go to India, but he was gratified by the thought that he might be able to snatch one or two from under Patel's nose. He gave Jodhpur a blank sheet of paper. 'Write your conditions on that' he said and 'I'll sign it' elated, the Maharaja returned to his hotel to consider. It was an unfortunate move on his part, for V. P. Menon was there waiting for him. Menon's agents had alerted him to what Jodhpur was up to. He told the young ruler that his presence was requested urgently at viceroy's House, and reluctantly the young man accompanied him there. The urgent summons had been an excuse, and once they had arrived, Menon had to go on a frantic search for Viceroy, and tell him what had happened. Mountbatten responded immediately. He solemnly reminded Jodhpur that Jinnah could not guarantee any conditions he might make, and that accession to Pakistan would spell disaster for his state. At the same time, he assured him that accession to India would flout automatically mean end of his pleasure. Mountbatten left him alone with Menon to sign a provisional agreement.

Final Draft

Failed negotiations of Jodhpur
(Title with Marker)

Afraid of losing power to congress Maharajah of Jodhpur met with Jinnah. Jinnah was aware, that due to geographical location of princely states most would end up being part of India. Jinnah to secure minimum possible states, started negotiation with Jodhpur on their terms. V.P Menon informed by his agents, intervened and took Maharajah to the House of Viceroy. Menon narrated the event to the viceroy. He warned Maharajah of consequences of joining Pakistan and left him alone to sign the provisional agreement with Menon.

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