Text and translation

- They are completely unmoved by the Muslims' destitution, care nothing for their education and upbringing,
 And have neither the will to make an effort nor a paisa to give,
 But they will freely offer caricatures of everyone, sometimes mocking their dress, sometimes jeering at their diet.
- 274 If they find their friends at fault in any matter, they make them a target for their quips.
 With their joy at others' misfortunes, they grieve their brethren's hearts.
 They make fun of their own people, turning them into strangers.
 Their hearts are untroubled by any twinge of feeling. Their moist eyes hold not a drop of heartfelt tears.
- There is a boat being caught in a whirlpool, putting the lives of young and old at risk.
 There is no way out or room for escape. Some of them are asleep, while others are awake.
 Those who are asleep stay intoxicated with their profound slumber.
 Those who are awake mock the others.
- Let someone come and ask them, 'What do you hope to gain by standing there laughing, you who are so aware?
 'The evil time which is about to befall the craft will spare neither those who are asleep nor those who are awake.
 'Neither you nor your companions will escape. If the ship sinks, you will all be drowned.'

General condition

- Well, what kinds of faults are we to describe, when the whole community is so utterly ruined?
 The state of all, poor, ignorant, weak or mighty, can only be despaired of.
 Few are such hopeless cases in the world as those amongst us, who once ruined cannot right themselves.
- Someone asked this question of a wise man, 'What is the greatest blessing in the world?'

 He said, 'Wisdom, by which this world and the next are gained.' The other said, 'If a man is not endowed with this?'

 He said, 'Then the most important things are knowledge and skill, which give a man cause for pride.'

- The other said, 'If even these are not within his reach?' He said, 'Then wealth and property are the most important things.'

 The other said, 'If even this door be closed to him?' He said, 'It would be better if lightning struck him,

 'So that this disgrace to mankind might escape humiliation, and other men might be freed from his baneful influence.'
- I fear, oh comrades of my community, lest you should be the world's disgrace.
 If you have any regard for the honour of Islam, then quickly arise and take stock of yourselves.
 Otherwise the saying 'It would be better if they had never been' will be truly fulfilled in you.
- 281 How long will you remain thus free from all care? How long will you keep these ways and customs unchanged?

 How long will the new generation remain untrampled underfoot? How long will it take you to abandon this sheep-like imitation?

 Enough! Forget these old tales. Silence those roaring flames of bigotry.

The blessings of British rule

- The government has given you all kinds of freedom. It has completely opened up the roads to progress.

 From every direction these cries are coming, 'From prince to peasant, all men prosper.'

 Peace and security hold sway in all the lands. No caravan has its way blocked.
- No one wishes your religion and faith ill. No one is hostile to the Traditions and the Quran.

 No one damages the pillars of the community. No one forbids observance of the Holy Law's commands.

 Pray without fear in your places of worship. Loudly proclaim the calls to prayer in your mosques.
- 284* The routes of travel and commerce are open, nor are those of industry and craft closed.

 Just as the routes of the acquisition of learning are lit, so too are those the acquisition of wealth made level.

 At home there is no fear of the burglar or enemy, abroad there is no fear of the dacoit or highwayman.

Text and translation

- 285 Journeys that took months are accomplished in seconds. One rests more comfortably at breaks in one's journey than in one's home. In the jungles, every corner is a rose garden. There is a sense of security in caravans by night and day.

 Travel, which was once a foretaste of hell, has now been totally changed into the means of profit.
- In all the lands, fresh news arrives each instant. News of joy and sorrow keeps coming in.
 The news of every continent is openly published. The world's news is revealed to the world.
 Nothing which happens anywhere is hidden. All that happens upon the face of the earth is like a mirror.
- Value this peace and freedom, for the way of progress lies clear in ever direction.
 Every traveller is moving with the times. From every direction this cry is continually heard:
 'There is no need to worry about enemies or to fear robbers. Out you go! The route is free from danger.'
- Many caravans have long been moving. Many are loading up with burdens and baggage.
 Many are agitated in the bustling preparations for departure. Many are sorry that they are not moving.
 But there you are, all by yourselves, heedlessly asleep. In your heedlessness, may your goal not turn out to be a false one!
- Enough! Do not think your friends wish you ill now. Do not make out your guides to be robbers.
 Blame those who give you counsel later. First carefully examine your own houses,
 And see whether your store rooms are empty or full of goods, and whether your ways are evil or good.

Conclusion

290 You have now heard the whole story of the rich. The ways of the learned have all been described.

The nobles' condition has been completely revealed to you. All are sitting prepared for their own ruin here.

This crumbling house is now completely dilapidated. Its pillar has shifted from its centre of gravity.

Text and translation

- All that has happened is only a fraction of what is to befall our comrades. He who has been brought low from the heights will at last stay mingled with the dust. Although the people may have no resources left, they are nevertheless due soon to be trampled down still further.
- The end of every movement of progress here is this. The conclusion of every people and community is this. The way of fate has always been this. The true state of this wonderful world is this: Many springs have welled up here only to run dry, many gardens have bloomed and blossomed only to be cut back.
- Where are those builders of the pyramids of Egypt? Where are those heroes of Zabulistan? Where have the Peshdadi and Kayanian dynasties gone? The transitory world has destroyed them all.. Can you track down traces of the Chaldeans anywhere? Can you tell of any memorial of the Sasanians?
- The life of God alone will never wane, this world's uniquely worthy For life eternal others hope in vain: not one has yet, nor ever will remain. See, here are rich and poor but travellers all, departure is the rule for free and thrall.

The Egyptian pyramids are monuments with a square base and triangular shape (musallasnumā chauphal mīnār) situated in Egypt, five miles from the river Nile. One of them is reckoned to be one of the seven wonders of the world.

By 'heroes of Zabulistan' is meant the family of Rustam.

The Peshdadians were descendants of Hoshang, the eleventh king of Fars.

The Kayanians were the four kings Kaus, Khusrau, Qubad and Luhrasp.

Chaldeans means the people of Chaldea (Kaildiyā), i.e. Babylon.