

heart. Are you then prepared, my friends! to take this step to lay the basis of the long desired union by accepting this principle of peace, viz., that as we regard those *rishis* and *avatars* of yours, who are accepted and highly revered by millions of your people, as truthful and righteous servants of

God, you also may in like manner believe with a sincere heart in the prophethood of our Holy Prophet Muhammad, upon whom be peace and the blessings of God, and unite with us in reciting the holy words which are so dear to every Muslim's heart لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله (*Lá ilaha illa-llah-u Muhammad-ur rasool-ullah*) i.e., "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the apostle of God."

My countrymen! I entreat you to join with us in advancing towards that goal of peace and union for which we have already started, and thus deal a death-blow to the hatred and ill-feeling which is eating away our country. We do not require you to do anything which we have not ourselves done first and our requisition relates only to a condition which we have already satisfied. To uproot all enmities and to establish a true and sincere union, it is sufficient that as we look upon your *rishis* and *avatars* as true prophets of God, you should also express a belief in the truth of our Holy Prophet and make this declaration public. We cannot, of course, act in accordance with all your current beliefs, for Almighty God has informed us that the scriptures which are in your hands have had alterations and changes made in them by human hands. Moreover, your own religious differences are so great that the beliefs of one sect contradict those of another, and it is useless to enter into these discussions, for the final commandment of God as contained in the Holy Quran has freed us from all other obligations. Therefore all we desire of you is that you should believe in the truth of our scriptures and prophets in the same manner as we believe in the truth of your scriptures and prophets.