

Sake Dean Mahomet

After a traditional Islamic education in Patna, Mahomet joined Bengal army's 3rd European regiment rising to the post of subedar (lieutenant) in this regiment. In 1782 Mahomet resigned from the Bengal army and emigrated to Ireland where he published his two-volume *'Travels of Dean Mahomet, a native of Patna in Bengal, through several parts of India, while in the service of the Honourable East India Company'*, the first book ever written and published in English by an Indian.

By 1807 Mahomet had moved to London, and started the Hindostanee Coffee House, in Portman Square. Thought to be the first Indian restaurant in England, it was not a financial success and Mahomed petitioned for bankruptcy in 1812. He then moved Brighton where he sold Indian cosmetics and medicines, including Indian tooth powder, hair dye, steam bath with Indian oils, and shampooing. And by 1815 Mahomed had opened his own Battery House Baths, at the foot of the Steyne.

In 1820 Mahomed published a book of testimonials: *'Cases cured by Sake Deen Mahomed, shampooing surgeon, and inventor of the Indian medicated vapour and sea-water bath.'* Mahomed claimed to be able to cure a range of illnesses including rheumatism, asthma, and gout. In 1820, he built the magnificent Mahomed's Baths on King's Road, overlooking the sea. His professional and social prominence received recognition through appointment by royal warrant as shampooing surgeon to George IV and William IV.

According to his headstone and his later published works, Mahomet lived to the age of 101, being born in 1749, although in 'travels' his first work 1759 is his given birthdate. In his later works on 'shampooing' he claimed previously unmentioned medical training in India, and awarding himself an extra decade was presumably to accommodate this late revision!

**Sacred to the memory of SAKE DEEN MAHOMED
of PATNA HINDOOSTAN who died on the 25th of
February 1851 aged 101 years and JANE his
wife who died on the 26th of December 1850
aged 70 years**

**Sacred to the memory of ROSANNA daughter of
SAKE DEEN MAHOMED of PATNA HINDOOSTAN
and JANE his wife who departed this life
January 7th 1818 aged 3 years also of HENRY
EDWIN MAHOMED their son who departed this
life January 30th 1823 aged 12 years**