Forward

Dr. Rauf came to anthropology after beginning a promising career as a historian in his country. Having come to work for a Ph.D. at The Ohio State University in 1963, he found an appeal and a challenge in anthropology. He saw in it an approach to the problems of his culturally diversified country where he realized that anthropology was as yet unrepresented.

The present volume is Dr. Rauf's doctoral dissertation. It deals with a familiar field of study, the acculturation and accommodation of a group of immigrants and their descendants to a new country. This is a subject which has particular meaning to Americans in this age of awakening ethnic consciousness. However, Dr. Rauf is able to provide a new slant on this familiar problem: the immigrants he studied, and more particularly, their descendants, are East Indians who migrated to Guyana. There they form somewhat more than half of the country's total population. The next largest group in the population are of Afro-American descent, while the remainder (Europeans, Orientals, Amerindians, mixed bloods) form less than 20 percent. This process of acculturation and of this search for ethnic identity is one whose ingredients may be familiar to North Americans, yet the setting and the cultural elements of this potential melting pot are rather unfamiliar ones.

Again, while acculturation has often been studied, there is another novelty to be found in Dr. Rauf's work. It is not often that people, descendants of migrants, are studied by one who comes from the home country, one whose native culture is an intact version of the traditional culture of which the descendants of immigrants have only a dim and distant view.

*This draft is from Erika Bourguignon's personal records and may not exactly replicate the authoritative published document. See [http://www.paulbourguignon.com/Erika.html](http://www.paulbourguignon.com/Erika.html) for more information.*
This personal background gave Dr. Rauf not only an excellent entry into the community and a position of respect within it. It also permitted him to measure, on the basis of his own knowledge, the cultural distance that had been traversed by the several generations of his hosts.

As so often happens in anthropological research and planning, serendipity intervened and the author was helped in this case by an unknown and fortuitous circumstance: the population to be studied was largely derived from that area of India in which Dr. Rauf had grown up and whose language was his own.

What we read in these pages, then, is not only a technical report by a trained observer. It is also the report of a visitor from the home country to its sons and daughters in an alien land, to which they have brought many of their own traditions and to which they have adapted, which they have helped to form by their work and by their presence, so that it is now in no small part a piece of the Indian subcontinent in the Western hemisphere.

Dr. Rauf has returned to Pakistan, where he is at work both on specific research problems and on the development of anthropology. It gives me great pleasure to be able to present his study to American readers.

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