

“ he were opposed by much more  
 “ formidable enemies than he and his  
 “ ragged companions.”

“ Alibeg, stung with rage at this  
 “ contemptuous answer, and in-  
 “ flamed with indignation at the  
 “ indignity and violence done to his  
 “ sister, replied, “ That he did not at pre-  
 “ sent intend to combat his antagonist  
 “ with words but with blows,” adding,  
 “ that whatever might be his fate, he  
 “ would endeavour, armed only as  
 “ he was with the baton which he held  
 “ in his hand, to take a signal venge-  
 “ ance on the wretch who dared to  
 “ lay his sacrilegious hands on his  
 “ sister, and to speak so injuriously and  
 “ disrespectfully of his friends.” He  
 “ had scarce uttered these words,  
 “ when springing forward with the

“ rapidity of an eagle, eager to seize  
 “ his prey, he gave the fellow, who  
 “ had uttered this scornful and contemp-  
 “ tuous language, such a blow on  
 “ the head with his baton, that he  
 “ reeled backwards a few paces and  
 “ fell to the ground, then recover-  
 “ ing his arm he aimed such a blow at  
 “ another, that the weight of the stroke  
 “ laid him prostrate at his feet. Had  
 “ my son been supported as he ought  
 “ at this crisis by his companions, he  
 “ might have been able to rescue his  
 “ sister, but these standing aloof, either  
 “ through want of courage or presence  
 “ of mind, he was forced to maintain  
 “ the combat against the four remain-  
 “ ing villains, from one of whom, while  
 “ he was parrying a blow aimed at  
 “ him by another, he received a mortal  
 “ wound in the side, and sunk to the  
 “ earth.

" earth. Fatima seeing her brother  
 " fall and the vital blood gushing from  
 " the wound he had received, screamed  
 " wildly, and fainting at the direful  
 " spectacle before her eyes, she sunk  
 " down on his breast. The two  
 " shepherds observing Alibeg fall were  
 " seized with a sudden panic, and  
 " afraid of participating in his fate,  
 " they betook themselves to flight;  
 " but anxious at the same time to  
 " know the catastrophe of Fatima, they  
 " wheeled about, and returning through  
 " the thickest part of the wood, where  
 " they were screened from the view  
 " of the robbers, they waited in dread-  
 " ful suspense for the conclusion of  
 " this pathetic scene.

" From one of these eye and ear-  
 " witnesses it was that I heard the  
 " particulars

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“ particulars of the moving tale that  
“ I am now relating in thine ears, and  
“ which memory hath engraven on the  
“ tablets of my heart in characters  
“ too deep to be erased by the hand of  
“ time.

“ Alibeg feeling his sister lying on  
“ his breast in a swoon, was by that  
“ circumstance thrown into such a  
“ violent emotion, as overpowered all  
“ the faculties of his soul, and almost  
“ terminated in his immediate dissolu-  
“ tion; clasping her eagerly in his arms  
“ once and again he essayed to speak to  
“ her; but the weakness of his body  
“ occasioned by the loss of blood,  
“ the strength of his sensations, and the  
“ fierce conflict of contending passions,  
“ all raging in his breast in their utmost  
“ extremes, deprived him of the power  
“ of



“ of speech. In this terrible paroxysm  
“ of the passions, he poured forth his  
“ soul and life at once into the bosom  
“ of his sister.

“ At last, Fatima, gradually recover-  
“ ing from the swoon into which she  
“ ~~had been~~ thrown by the violent agi-  
“ tation of her mind, just when her  
“ brother was expiring, and having  
“ heard him as she was beginning to re-  
“ cover faintly pronounce her name, she  
“ turned her languid eyes upon him,  
“ and eagerly clasping him in her arms,  
“ Didst thou not, my dear brother,”  
“ cried she, “ call upon the name of  
“ Fatima?—But ah! thou speakest not,  
“ thou answerest not to the voice  
“ of Fatima!”—Then recoiling from  
“ his arms, while the wild stare of  
“ horror and agonizing grief was im-

" pressed on her countenance, " Thou  
 " art cold, thou art pale," she said " My  
 " dear, my affectionate Alibeg is gone  
 " for ever. Myſterious Providence,"  
 " exclaimed ſhe, " why am I condemned  
 " to be a ſpectator of this dreadful  
 " ſcene? — O that my destiny had ſub-  
 " jected me to the fate of Alibeg,  
 " that my life and ſorrows might have  
 " terminated together." Caſting her  
 " eye upon the robbers who ſurrounded  
 " her, " Ye ruthleſs ruffians," ſaid ſhe,  
 " who have embrued your hands in  
 " the blood of the dear youth, who  
 " lies dead before you, complete your  
 " work; let your ſteel pierce this boſom,  
 " and I will bleſs the ſtroke by which  
 " I expire, and which will once more  
 " unite me to Alibeg." Perceiving  
 " that they gave her no anſwer, and  
 " that they were preparing to ſeize her;  
 " and

“ and happening to observe a sword  
“ which belonged to one of the  
“ robbers whom Alibeg had knocked  
“ down, lying on the ground at some  
“ distance, she sprung away from them,  
“ and hastily snatching it up, and  
“ pointing it at her breast, “ Perfidious  
“ wretches,” said she, “ do not imagine  
“ that while I am thus armed, I will  
“ ever suffer myself to become your  
“ prey, or to be robbed of my honour,  
“ which this sword shall protect. If  
“ any of you presume to advance one  
“ step further, in order to lay violent  
“ hands upon me, I will that moment  
“ plunge it into my heart.” •

“ While they observed her thus  
“ determined to sacrifice her life, rather  
“ than allow herself to fall into their  
“ hands, they stood aloof and seemed

“ irresolute what method to take in  
 “ order to get her into their power,  
 “ till one of the two whom Alibeg had  
 “ knocked down, having recovered  
 “ from the blow, stole behind her un-  
 “ perceived, and seizing the sword,  
 “ wrenched it out <sup>(sn)</sup> her hand; the  
 “ others seeing her thus disarmed, in-  
 “ mediately came up to her, and tak-  
 “ ing hold of her arm dragged her  
 “ along with them, piercing the air  
 “ with her wild shrieks, at one time im-  
 “ ploring the interposition of heaven  
 “ in her own favour, at another, its  
 “ vengeance on the murderers of her  
 “ brother.

“ The shepherds told me that she  
 “ continued bewailing the death of her  
 “ brother and the miseries of her fa-  
 “ ther, till her cries could no more be  
 “ heard.

" heard. After the robbers had thus  
 " carried my dear Fatima along with  
 " them by violence, and were entirely  
 " out of sight, the two shepherds, think-  
 " ing they might now safely peep out of  
 " their lurking places, came to the spot  
 " where the body of my son was left,  
 " and having fixed his corpse on a bier  
 " which they made of branches of  
 " trees, they carried it in this manner  
 " towards my cell." As the hermit  
 was entering upon this part of his  
 relation the tears gushed from his  
 eyes, and the sorrows which agitated  
 his throbbing heart again smothered  
 his voice. Recovering himself a  
 little, after several ineffectual attempts  
 to speak, " Thou," says he, ad-  
 dressing himself to Amur, while  
 the thick mists again stifled his  
 speech, " who hast known what

" it is to lose a darling and an only  
 " child, do thou excuse this interrup-  
 " tion of my narration, 'and those  
 " tears which I shed to the memory of  
 " my dear Alibeg.

" The sun", ~~runy and h~~, "was partly  
 " far advanced in the western hemi-  
 " sphere, the shadow of evening began  
 " to lengthen, and I waited with eager  
 " expectation for the arrival of my son  
 " and daughter along with their guests  
 " at my solitary dwelling. Imagin-  
 " ing they would be hungry after  
 " their long fasting and fatigue, I had  
 " set some provisions for them on the  
 " table, and wondering at their long  
 " stay, I went out in order to meet  
 " them by the way: I had not travelled  
 " far, before I observed the two shep-  
 " herds who had gone abroad with  
 " Alibeg

“ Alibeg and Fatima, returning with  
“ a burden which they carried betwixt  
“ them, though I could not yet distin-  
“ guish what it was. While they were  
“ at a considerable distance from me,  
“ I called out to them, enquiring where  
“ they had left my son and daughter,  
“ and what that burden was, under  
“ the weight of which they seemed to  
“ totter in their walk: they made  
“ no answer to my enquiry; but con-  
“ tinuing their march towards me as  
“ fast as they were able till they ap-  
“ proached within a few paces of me,  
“ they laid down the bier on which  
“ they had fastened the body of my  
“ son, at such a distance, that though  
“ I could perceive a corpse upon the  
“ bier, I could not yet determine with  
“ certainty whose corpse it was. A  
“ dreadful presage however of the fatal  
“ tidings

“ tidings I was so soon to hear, that  
 “ moment took possession of my  
 “ mind, and I stood still in a kind of  
 “ dumb horror, anticipating in my own  
 “ imagination the dreadful spectacle that  
 “ was going to be exhibited to me.  
 “ While I continually ~~stood~~ in astonish-  
 “ ment and dreadful suspense, ~~one~~  
 “ of the shepherds, whose name was  
 “ Meruk, came up to me immediate-  
 “ ly, and addressing me with a look of  
 “ the most mournful sympathy, “ Rhe-  
 “ di,” said he, “ let thy soul be summon-  
 “ ed up to meet the stroke of affliction,  
 “ and may Allah whom thou serveest,  
 “ and who dispenseth good and evil  
 “ according to his pleasure, support  
 “ thy soul under the severe trials which  
 “ he has now prepared for thee. Thy  
 [“ son is dead, and lies on yonder bier :  
 “ he fell by the hand of robbers, fighting  
 “ in defence of his sister’s honour ; and  
 “ thy



“ thy daughter Fatima, alas ! they have  
“ carried along with them as their  
“ prey.”

“ On hearing these dreadful tidings  
“ my soul was agitated with un-  
“ alterable anguish, my blood was con-  
“ gealed in my veins, a deathlike pale-  
“ ness overspread my countenance,  
“ I reeled and fell backwards to the  
“ earth. That sudden and over-power-  
“ ing stupor of the senses into which  
“ I was thrown on the first informa-  
“ tion of this shocking catastrophe,  
“ like the grumbling that usually  
“ portends and precedes the gathering  
“ storm, was followed by a tempest  
“ of grief which beat down all the  
“ structure of my hope, and tore from  
“ the root all my loveliest flowers,  
“ which sprung upon the garden of  
“ delight—Like one hastily awakening  
“ from

" from a frightful dream, that had  
 " been presented to the imagination,  
 " to a still more frightful reality, I re-  
 " coiled with horror at the first glimpse  
 " of my misfortune when remem-  
 " brance and reason began to exert  
 " their power on my tumultuous mind,  
 " I was roused at once into the most  
 " desperate sensibility of the calamities  
 " which had befallen me, and experi-  
 " enced the severest pangs of grief  
 " which can torture the heart of man.  
 " Rolling in the dust in the agony of  
 " despair, with my hands clasped, and  
 " my eyes directed towards heaven,  
 " Eternal and omnipotent Allah," said  
 " I, " why are the bolts of thine in-  
 " dignation still levelled at a reptile of  
 " the dust? O! let the lightning of thy  
 " wrath flash against this hoary head at  
 " once; put a period to an existence  
 " which I am unable to endure."

— Then

“ Then raising myself, with the  
“ assistance of the shepherds, from  
“ the ground, I walked with a tottering  
“ step towards the place where the dead  
“ body of my son was laid down.  
“ When I saw his pale and mangled  
“ corpse, the vehement passions which  
“ crowded into and overpowered my  
“ soul choaked my speech; I fell pro-  
“ strate upon the body, I hugged and  
“ pressed it to my bosom, while I suf-  
“ fered a convulsion of my whole frame,  
“ which, had it continued a few mo-  
“ ments longer, must have been fatal  
“ to my reason or my life. At last the  
“ torrent burst forth, and I gave vent  
“ to the tempestuous emotions which  
“ raged in my mind, in the violent  
“ gusts of heart-rending grief. But  
“ why should I dwell on a scene the  
“ representation of which must excite  
“ such

“ such painful sensations in your feeling  
 “ hearts, and the recollection of which,  
 “ even at this distance of time, awakens  
 “ my grief in all its violence.—And  
 “ yet why should I give myself up to  
 “ the dominion of grief, upon account  
 “ of the loss of Alibeg?—For thou,  
 “ my son, art happy; thou hast passed  
 “ the narrow bridge; thou drinkest of  
 “ the waters of Zemzim; thou art re-  
 “ freshed with the airs of paradise, and  
 “ enjoyest the society of the faithful.

“ While I thought of the situation  
 “ of Fatima, however, familiar as I  
 “ was with misfortune, a dreadful fore-  
 “ boding seized my heart, and shook  
 “ my whole frame. “ Ah! my Fa-  
 “ tima,” exclaimed I, with a sigh, that  
 “ almost burst my heaving heart, “ where  
 “ art thou? and what is thy destiny?  
 “ Perhaps.

" Perhaps, alas ! thou art reserved for a  
 " fate more dreadful than death ; per-  
 " haps thou art at this moment exposed  
 " to the insults of brutality, and the as-  
 " faults of violence ; and the recital of  
 " thy dishonour is yet wanting to fill  
 " up the cup of thy father's misery !  
 " Merciful Allah ! cried I, " grant  
 " that before these dreadful tidings  
 " reach my ears, these eyes, to which  
 " the light of the sun is already hate-  
 " ful, may be closed in everlasting  
 " darkness." As I thus bewailed the  
 " calamities which had befallen me, in  
 " all the anguish of overwhelming  
 " grief, the shepherds, who brought  
 " me the body of my son, and who,  
 " though destitute of that degree of  
 " courage the exertion of which might  
 " have saved my Alibeg and Fatima,  
 " seemed greatly affected with my se-  
 " vere

"vere afflictions, and attempted to ad-  
 "minister to me all the consolation  
 "which their sympathizing hearts could  
 "suggest; but finding me deaf to all  
 "their arguments and expostulations,  
 "they desisted for the present, and pro-  
 "posed to assist me in paying the last  
 "duty to the body of Alibeg; a pro-  
 "posal which I thankfully complied  
 "with.

"The shepherds having raised it to  
 "their shoulders on the bier on which  
 "it was brought, I directed them to  
 "carry it to the spot where the ashes of  
 "my dear Selima were interred; I fol-  
 "lowed the sad procession with a slow  
 "and melancholy step; I opened the  
 "grave, which contained the remains  
 "of the best and loveliest of women;  
 "I placed close by those remains the  
 "corpse

“ corpse of my beloved Alibeg ; and I  
“ earnestly wished that moment to be  
“ laid in the same grave, and to mingle  
“ my dust with theirs ; but the wish  
“ was vain : I continued, however,  
“ gazing stedfastly on their sad reliques,  
“ till the shepherds, denying any longer  
“ this indulgence to my grief, threw  
“ the earth which had been dug up on  
“ their bodies, and covered them with  
“ these green sods. Having performed  
“ this mournful office, they endeavoured  
“ to persuade me to leave a spot, which  
“ suggested to me so many melancholy  
“ ideas ; and thinking it might tend to  
“ suspend or assuage my grief, they  
“ urged me earnestly to go along with  
“ them to their cottage, which was  
“ about two miles distant. I continued  
“ deaf, however, to all their intreaties  
“ and remonstrances ; and they finding  
“ their

" their solicitations ineffectual, left me  
 " swallowed up in devouring misery,  
 " intending to return to-morrow, and  
 " to attempt by all the means in their  
 " power to alleviate those calamities  
 " which they could not remove.

" Of the manifold miseries to which  
 " mortality is subjected, there are some  
 " of these too overwhelming to admit  
 " of mitigation or of comfort, and all  
 " endeavours to mitigate them appear  
 " to us rather officious and unseason-  
 " able, than friendly and agreeable.  
 " We as it were choose to brood over  
 " them undisturbed and alone, without  
 " participation or sympathy. I felt my-  
 " self in this situation upon the occa-  
 " sion of which I now speak, and after  
 " the departure of the shepherds I gave  
 " myself up to the dominion of in-



“ consolable grief, which I wished to  
 “ appropriate wholly as sacred to my-  
 “ self. Ruminating in my own mind  
 “ on my deplorable condition, I confi-  
 “ dered myself as a solitary, forlorn,  
 “ and abandoned wretch, whose every  
 “ endearing connexion was broke asun-  
 “ der by the hand of death, standing  
 “ alone like an old withered oak, strip-  
 “ ped of its leaves, and exposed to the  
 “ fury of the warring elements; then  
 “ prostrating myself upon this grave,  
 “ which contained all that was mortal  
 “ of my Selima and Alibeg, I gave  
 “ vent to the emotions of my full heart,  
 “ in the most pathetic lamentations.

“ While I was at one time bewailing  
 “ in the most pitiable accents my own  
 “ forlorn and desolate condition, at  
 “ another expressing my most ardent  
 “ wishes

“ wishes for a re-union to those who  
“ were the objects of my tenderest af-  
“ fections, the powers of nature were  
“ at last exhausted with the agitation  
“ of my mind and the fatigue of my  
“ body, and I sunk into a gentle slum-  
“ ber, which gradually overcame my  
“ senses, and for a while lulled all my  
“ sorrows in oblivion. While the or-  
“ gans of sensation suffered a temporary  
“ suspension in their exercise, the  
“ most glorious and delightful vision I  
“ had ever beheld was exhibited to my  
“ imagination, and all the powers of  
“ my soul were drowned in an ecstasy  
“ of pleasure. Raising my eyes from  
“ the ground, on which I lay, and di-  
“ recting them to the east, I perceived  
“ an unusual brightness in that part of  
“ the hemisphere, that seemed to in-  
“ crease as it approached nearer me.

“ As

" As I gazed on this splendid phæno-  
 " menon, a being of mild but majestic  
 " dignity burst from the dazzling ra-  
 " diance upon my view, in a blaze of  
 " glory that wrapt my mind in admira-  
 " tion and awe, suspense and astonish-  
 " ment. As he looked on me, tender  
 " compassion beamed in his eye, and  
 " unutterable benignity irradiated his  
 " countenance. From the mildness  
 " and serenity of his air, I knew him  
 " to be the angel of consolation, and  
 " though I was awed into reverence  
 " and humility by the presence of so  
 " superior a being, I felt myself like-  
 " wise elevated by it with confidence  
 " and hope. " Rhedi," said he, " He  
 " that dwelleth in the highest heavens  
 " hath had pity on thy misfortunes,  
 " and hath sent me to comfort thee  
 " under their pressure, by disclosing to

M

" thy

“ thy view the rewards that are allotted  
 “ to pious resignation and persevering  
 “ virtue in the regions of paradise.  
 “ Arise and follow me.” As he uttered  
 “ these words, he touched me with a  
 “ rod of mysterious power which he  
 “ held in his hand, when I perceived  
 “ myself in an instant snatched up into  
 “ the air, and transported with the rapi-  
 “ dity of lightning through unbounded  
 “ tracks of æther ; we arrived at an im-  
 “ mense and delicious garden, or rather  
 “ country, which my conductor told  
 “ me was the abode of the faithful.

“ It is in vain for me to attempt to  
 “ give you any just idea of the beauty  
 “ of a place which exceeds all power  
 “ of description, and even all that can  
 “ be conceived by human imagination,  
 “ and which is as much superior to the  
 “ most

“ most beautiful spot on this earth, as  
“ the gardens of Ispahan are superior  
“ to the deserts of Arabia. In this en-  
“ chanting place all the beauties that  
“ nature yields were exhibited in such  
“ a manner and with such variety, as  
“ to produce the most exquisite delight,  
“ without the least satiety: hill and  
“ dale, rocks and mountains, woods  
“ and rivers, fountains and cascades,  
“ embroidered meadows, murmuring  
“ streams and embowering shades,  
“ walks intersecting each other, some  
“ straight, some serpentine, some open-  
“ ing a vast extent of country to the  
“ view, others dark and shadowy,  
“ and wandering through a mazy laby-  
“ rinth into a boundless wilderness; all  
“ conspired to embellish and to com-  
“ plete this delightful landscape: the  
“ trees on each hand at the same time,

“ covered with blossoms and bending  
 “ with fruit, exhibited the riches of all  
 “ the seasons in all their pride, while  
 “ the birds, chanting their melodious  
 “ songs of love on every bough, height-  
 “ ened the effect of these charming  
 “ scenes, and rendered them perfectly  
 “ enchanting.

“ As I was gazing around me, lost  
 “ in wonder and delight, on this happy  
 “ place and its fair inhabitants, some of  
 “ whom, both male and female, were  
 “ walking promiscuously in conference  
 “ together, without seeming to regard  
 “ me, others musing on the bank of a  
 “ murmuring rivulet, and others listen-  
 “ ing to the falls of cascades and the  
 “ roar of dashing torrents, I looked  
 “ behind me, in order to ask some que-  
 “ stion of my heavenly guide concern-  
 “ ing

“ ing the condition and character of the  
“ happy beings whom I saw around me,  
“ but I perceived he had vanished  
“ from my sight. While my eyes  
“ searched on every hand in vain for my  
“ divine conductor, and I was ponder-  
“ ing in my mind the reason of his dis-  
“ appearing so suddenly, in a place  
“ where his condescending instruction  
“ could be of such use to me, I per-  
“ ceived a female form, of the most  
“ exquisite beauty, attended by a lovely  
“ youth, advancing towards me, both  
“ of whom eyed me with a mixture of  
“ tenderness and affection ; but the for-  
“ mer cast upon me such a bewitching  
“ look of gentleness and love, as pene-  
“ trated my soul, and produced emo-  
“ tions in my heart which were as plea-  
“ sing as they were violent. As I  
“ gazed on this divine creature with

“corresponding tendernefs and paſſion,  
 “I inſtantly recognized the lineaments  
 “of my Selima’s face, which were, if  
 “poſſible, moulded into greater ſym-  
 “metry, and fluffed with a more vivid  
 “bloom; and ſpringing forward, in  
 “order to fold her in my arms, “O! my  
 “lovely Selima,” cried I, “am I at laſt  
 “blessed with a ſight of the ſole charmer  
 “of my heart?”—As I pronounced  
 “theſe words, I attempted to embrace  
 “the enchanting fair-one; but ſhe va-  
 “niſhed from my graſp, and checking  
 “the eagerneſs I diſcovered to preſs her  
 “to my boſom, “Attempt not,” ſaid  
 “ſhe, “my dear Rhedi, to embrace  
 “thy Selima, a privilege which thou  
 “canſt not enjoy while thou continueſt  
 “a partner to mortality; but liſten to  
 “the information and counſel which on  
 “the preſent occaſion I am permitted

“to



“ to give thee. Thou bewailest, my  
 “ death as the greatest calamity, that  
 “ could have befallen me; but thou  
 “ didst not know that if I had lived a  
 “ few hours longer I should have been  
 “ subjected to a calamity far more dread-  
 “ ful than death, by suffering dishonour  
 “ from the same ruffians who carried off  
 “ thy daughter. The death of thy son  
 “ was another terrible shock to thy ten-  
 “ der and parental heart, and thou re-  
 “ gardedst his fate as most deplorable  
 “ and premature; but if thy limited  
 “ faculties could have enabled thee to  
 “ foresee that that son, whose fate thou  
 “ didst consider as untimely, would in  
 “ the course of his destiny have been  
 “ cast upon the world, and exposed to  
 “ temptations and vice, which, virtuous  
 “ as he was, his own fortitude would  
 “ not have enabled him to resist, instead

“ of arraigning the justice and good-  
 “ ness of Providence, in permitting  
 “ him to be cut off, a rashness of con-  
 “ duct into which by thy short-sighted  
 “ understanding thou wast in some de-  
 “ gree betrayed, thou wouldst have  
 “ owned the rectitude of the divine dis-  
 “ pensations, and acknowledged the  
 “ mercy of the stroke which preserved  
 “ him from guilt. Let the considera-  
 “ tion, therefore, of the escape which  
 “ by my death I made from dishonour,  
 “ and of the escape which thy son,  
 “ whom thou seest here with me in this  
 “ happy state, hath by his death made  
 “ from vice,” pointing to the dear  
 “ youth, whom she held by the hand,  
 “ reconcile thee to those dispensations  
 “ which thou so lately, though unknow-  
 “ ingly, deemedst to be severe: and  
 “ let this important truth be engraven  
 “ on

“ on the tablets of thy heart, that all  
 “ the dispensations of Providence, how-  
 “ ever calamitous many of them may  
 “ appear to the individuals who suffer,  
 “ are regulated by unerring wisdom  
 “ and boundless benignity, and shall,  
 “ if suitably improved, terminate either  
 “ in the temporal or eternal happiness  
 “ of those who are the objects of them.  
 “ With regard to thy daughter Fatima,  
 “ whose situation has justly excited in  
 “ thy heart the most anxious solicitude  
 “ and the most alarming fears, let it  
 “ suffice thee to know that she is still  
 “ alive, and that she has been rescued  
 “ by a signal interposition of Provi-  
 “ dence from the evil which thou  
 “ dreadedst hadst befallen her. The  
 “ farther particulars of her fate I am  
 “ not permitted at present to reveal :  
 “ this intimation only I am allowed to

“ give thee, that to-morrow, about  
 “ noon, thou wilt meet several persons  
 “ at the fountain near thy cell, one of  
 “ whom comes to prefer a request to  
 “ thee, with which thy affectionate Se-  
 “ lima begs thee to comply. Adieu, my  
 “ Rhedi, make it thy study to per-  
 “ severe in the path of virtue, and we  
 “ shall be joined in these happy regions  
 “ in everlasting union.” Just as she  
 “ had pronounced these words, I made  
 “ a second attempt to embrace her ; but  
 “ she escaped as formerly from my  
 “ grasp, and the effort which I made  
 “ awakened me from my dream.

“ The impression which this delight-  
 “ ful phantom made upon my ima-  
 “ gination was so vivid, that for some  
 “ time I could not determine whether  
 “ I was asleep or awake, or whether  
 “ the

“ the appearance that had been exhibited to me was real or imaginary;  
“ my senses still continued wrapt in the  
“ most pleasing and enchanting delirium I had ever experienced; and  
“ resigning myself under the influence  
“ of this delirium to the power of imagination, which was still predominant over my reason, “ O my beloved Selima!” exclaimed I, “ thou  
“ long lost and long deplored charmer  
“ of my soul, hast thou, after so many  
“ years separation, condescended to  
“ visit thy affectionate and constant  
“ Rhedi? Or am I only the dupe of  
“ my own senses? And is the appearance of my Selima and Alibeg only  
“ the delusion of a troubled imagination, which mistakes shadows for  
“ realities?” Then looking around  
“ me, and perceiving that I had never

“ stirred a foot from the spot where  
 “ the shepherds had left me, “ Alas !”  
 “ said I, “ how have I been deceived  
 “ by the chimeras of a love-sick brain ?  
 “ But a few moments ago I fancied  
 “ myself in paradise, and I was blessed  
 “ with a sight of my Selima and Ali-  
 “ beg ;—and now I press their dead  
 “ bodies in this grave. I was lulled in  
 “ a delicious dream, and now I awake  
 “ to discover the illusion, and to be-  
 “ moan my cruel disappointment. A  
 “ dream did I say ? No, the impres-  
 “ sion was too vivid for a dream ; it  
 “ was doubtless a vision, which Selima  
 “ herself, my beloved Selima, was per-  
 “ mitted to exhibit to my imagination,  
 “ on purpose to sooth and comfort my  
 “ troubled mind :—and I already feel  
 “ its happy effect, in restoring tran-  
 “ quillity to my soul, and in diffusing  
 “ over

“ over it that ineffable joy that arises  
“ from the hope of a re-union, which  
“ will consummate its felicity. I will  
“ therefore indulge this hope, and pa-  
“ tiently wait for its accomplishment.—  
“ But didst thou not, my lovely fair-  
“ one, tell me that my dear Fatima  
“ was yet alive, and had escaped dis-  
“ honour, though it seems thou wast  
“ not permitted to acquaint me of the  
“ particulars of her fate, or explicitly  
“ to inform me whether or not I should  
“ yet be blessed with a sight of her.  
“ Without attempting to pry into the  
“ secrets of futurity, which are wrap-  
“ ped by Providence in darkness impe-  
“ netrable to mortal eye, I will be  
“ thankful for the intimation already  
“ vouchsafed me, and I will believe it  
“ as the dictates of an oracle. I will  
“ not yet despair of seeing my Fatima,  
“ though

“ though I know not by what means I  
 “ may obtain this happiness, and am  
 “ confident that we shall all meet and  
 “ rejoice together through endless ages  
 “ in the mansions of immortality.”

“ The more I reflected on the asto-  
 “ nishing and delightful scenes that had  
 “ been exhibited to my imagination,  
 “ whether in a dream or in a vision, I  
 “ was the more convinced that there  
 “ was something mysterious or superna-  
 “ tural in the manner of their repre-  
 “ sentation; and I flattered myself that  
 “ the intimation I had received in my  
 “ sleep portended my speedy enjoy-  
 “ ment of those scenes, and of that  
 “ society which I so eagerly panted  
 “ after. While I considered this dream  
 “ or vision as expressive of and pre-  
 “ saging my future felicity, every  
 “ gloomy



" gloomy thought was dissipated at  
 " once ; my mind became pensive in-  
 " deed, but serene, tranquil, and cheer-  
 " ful, intensely animated by the ardor  
 " of hope, and gently devoted by the  
 " sublime raptures of rational devo-  
 " tion.

" The shepherds having come next  
 " day as they intended, to the place  
 " where they had left me, in order to  
 " offer me all the sympathy and con-  
 " solation in their power, were asto-  
 " nished at the alteration they per-  
 " ceived in my temper and disposition,  
 " of which I explained to them the  
 " cause. On hearing this related, their  
 " astonishment was increased, and they  
 " earnestly concurred with me in  
 " ascribing praise to Allah, for the  
 " wonderful change they had witnessed.

" As

“ As the time however of the appear-  
“ ance of the guests foretold by Seli-  
“ ma was drawing near, I went to the  
“ appointed place, and sitting down  
“ by the side of the fountain, I watched  
“ their approach with a suspense and  
“ eagerness proportioned to the im-  
“ portance of the tidings I expected to  
“ hear.

“ The leaves of the trees began to  
“ whistle, I listened to the sound with still  
“ attention, and I looked earnestly  
“ through the openings of the wood  
“ for the expected strangers; but in  
“ vain; the wind had deceived me,  
“ and I began to fear a disappointment.  
“ At last, I heard the noise of camels  
“ at a distance; my heart throbbed with  
“ expectation: I looked intensely  
“ through a long avenue of the wood  
“ and discovered several persons riding on  
“ camels,

“ camels, and as they approached nearer  
“ me, I observed one of them leading a  
“ camel in his hand, without a rider  
“ or a burden. In this company I clearly  
“ discovered two men and three women,  
“ who appeared to be well dressed,  
“ riding before, together with a retinue  
“ of four servants who followed them.  
“ Surprized at seeing so many well-  
“ dressed persons coming to visit so  
“ solitary a place, and still ignorant  
“ of their real errand, I advanced in  
“ order to meet and welcome them  
“ to my cell. As I went forward, I  
“ observed one of the ladies hastily  
“ alighting from the camel on which  
“ she rode, and running as fast as she  
“ was able to meet me, and in an in-  
“ stant I found Fatima in my arms.  
“ Transported with surprise and joy,  
“ while I closely pressed her to my  
“ bosom, “ O my dear Fatima,” cried I,  
“ after

“ after so many dangers and fatigues  
 “ art thou once more restored to the  
 “ arms of thy disconsolate father.  
 “ Praise be to Allah, who, though he  
 “ has cut asunder the thread of my  
 “ Alibeg’s life, hath preserved thee to  
 “ sustain my drooping soul under the  
 “ weight of my affliction and the de-  
 “ cline of life?” At this affecting inter-  
 “ view, the tears of joy trickled down  
 “ both our cheeks; and we continued  
 “ some time locked in each other’s  
 “ arms, dissolved in mutual raptures  
 “ of parental and filial tenderness. My  
 “ soul was so intirely ingrossed by the  
 “ emotions of paternal affection, that  
 “ for a while my eye did not take  
 “ cognizance of the persons, who  
 “ had accompanied Fatima in her  
 “ journey. Looking around me, at  
 “ last, upon one after another, I ob-  
 “ served them all affected with the  
 “ interview

“ interview they had witnessed ; while  
“ one of the youths by his humid eye,  
“ and a certain look of mingled com-  
“ placency, sympathy, and tenderness,  
“ discovered a heart-felt interest in  
“ the pathetic scene which had been  
“ exhibited to his view. Recollecting  
“ myself therefore a little, and address-  
“ ing myself to them altogether,  
“ Pardon,” said I, “ illustrious strangers,  
“ my having failed in that respect  
“ and attention which was due to per-  
“ sons of your noble appearance, a  
“ failure that was owing to the surprise  
“ and joy I felt on the unexpected  
“ recovery of my daughter. May I  
“ presume to ask to whom I am indebted  
“ for so great a favour, and for the  
“ honour done me in visiting this  
“ solitude.” Fatima, consulting the  
“ delicacy of her benefactors, and desir-  
“ ous to prevent the blush which is apt  
“ to

“ to arise in the cheek of modest worth  
 “ when it is obliged to publish its own  
 “ actions, thought it proper to inter-  
 “ pose at this juncture by addressing  
 “ herself to me. “The persons,” said she,  
 “ who have accompanied me to this  
 “ place, and to whom I probably owe  
 “ my life or at any rate what is certain-  
 “ ly much more valuable than life,  
 “ my honour, are Sefi Ali Khan and  
 “ Gamal Beg his brother, and I should  
 “ be inexcusably ungrateful, if I had  
 “ not the deepest sense of the obliga-  
 “ tions I am under to their generosity  
 “ and valour.

“ After the deplorable death of my  
 “ dear brother, an event which will  
 “ never be erased from my heart, I  
 “ was dragged away by the robbers  
 “ who had seized me, and had no pro-  
 “ spect

“ spect before me but dishonour and  
“ death. While they dragged me  
“ along with them I pierced the air  
“ with my cries, which, happily for  
“ me, reached the ears and penetrated  
“ the hearts of these generous youths  
“ whom you see before you, who, alarm-  
“ ed by the cries which they heard as  
“ they passed that way, rode up hastily  
“ in order to learn their cause. Trans-  
“ ported with the hopes of deliverance,  
“ unequal as they were in number to  
“ their antagonists, I represented my  
“ unhappy condition to them with all  
“ the eloquence of heart-felt distress:  
“ I told them, that the ruffians in whose  
“ custody I was, had murdered my  
“ brother fighting in defence of his  
“ sister’s honour, that they were forcing  
“ me along with them into captivity,  
“ and that they intended to subject me  
“ to

“ to a fate more dreadful than death,  
 “ by exposing me to injury and dis-  
 “ honour. This representation pro-  
 “ duced the desired effect on the minds  
 “ of these generous youths, who called  
 “ on the robbers to release me immedi-  
 “ ately, threatening them with instant  
 “ death in case of a refusal. These  
 “ wretches however, steeled against every  
 “ emotion of sympathy, and probably  
 “ incensed at the menacing language of  
 “ my protectors, retaliated their threats  
 “ and put themselves in a posture of  
 “ defence. But the valiant youths  
 “ whom you see before you, stimulated  
 “ by that indignation and ardor, which  
 “ flash in heroic minds against the  
 “ assailants of innocence, wielded their  
 “ swords with such efficacy, that they  
 “ laid four of the villains who opposed  
 “ them dead at their feet, the remain-  
 “ ing



“ ing two having betaken themselves  
 “ to flight. After this signal deliverance,  
 “ which challenges my most fervent  
 “ gratitude, I was conducted by my  
 “ protectors to the house of Sefi Ali  
 “ Khan, who is Cady of Shirwan,  
 “ where I have been treated with all the  
 “ delicacy and respect which I could have  
 “ wished for, and where these amiable  
 “ ladies who have condescended to ac-  
 “ company me hither, have honoured me  
 “ with their esteem and friendship ever  
 “ since I came to their brother's house.”

“ On hearing this account of her  
 “ deliverance from Fatima, I looked  
 “ on the two noble youths with an  
 “ air of respectful and fervent grati-  
 “ tude mixed with admiration; and  
 “ told them it was impossible I should  
 “ ever have it in my power to demon-  
 “ strate

"strate by my actions, the sense I had  
 "of the great obligations conferred  
 "upon me, but that no length of time  
 "would ever obliterate from my mind  
 "the deep impressions made on it by  
 "their generosity and bravery; and that  
 "I begged of them in the mean time  
 "to accept of my most ardent grati-  
 "tude and of my earnest prayers for  
 "their happiness, as the only return  
 "I had in my power to make for their  
 "gallant behaviour? Sefi Ali Khan,  
 "who was the person that appeared  
 "to be most deeply affected by the  
 "interview between Fatima and me,  
 "having advanced to salute me with  
 "a mien that indicated such re-  
 "spect as I could not think myself  
 "entitled to, accompanied with a cer-  
 "tain amiable bashfulness, hesitation,  
 "and embarrassment, of which as yet  
 "I knew

" I knew not the cause, Rhedi," said he;  
 " neither you nor your daughter are  
 " under any obligations to us for the  
 " deliverance you refer to; we are  
 " sufficiently happy in being the in-  
 " struments of rescuing so much worth  
 " and beauty from the rude assaults  
 " of violence; if however," added he  
 " with a tremulous voice and down-cast  
 " eye, while the native blush of modesty  
 " glowed on his cheek, " you are good  
 " enough to think me deserving a re-  
 " ward, it is in the power of Rhedi to be-  
 " stow one that will make me the hap-  
 " piest of mortals." " If," answered I,  
 " the request be in my power to grant,  
 " name it only, and you shall at once  
 " obtain the accomplishment of your  
 " wishes." " The request," replied he  
 " with an ardor that sparkled in his  
 " eyes, " that I would now prefer is for  
 " your

" your consent to an union with the  
 " lovely Fatima, in whom all my wishes  
 " center, and in whom my felicity  
 " would be complete." " O my  
 " Selima," cried I, " is this the request  
 " which in the vision of thee I was  
 " blessed with, thou toldest me would  
 " be preferred to me, and with which  
 " thou exhortedst me to comply? I  
 " respect thy supernatural admonition  
 " and cheerfully obey thy desire."  
 " Then throwing my arms round the  
 " neck of the illustrious youth, " My  
 " dear Sefi," said I, " if my consent  
 " only be wanting to consummate thy  
 " felicity, thy wishes are gratified,  
 " provided thou obtainest the consent  
 " of Fatima herself." Then addressing  
 " myself to Fatima, whose face was co-  
 " loured with crimson, " What says  
 " my daughter to the proposal that has  
 " " beep

“ been made? Does she readily concur  
“ with the earnest and unlimited de-  
“ sires of Sefi and of Rhedi?” “ Though  
“ I know,” said Fatima, “ the respect  
“ which is due to the authority of so  
“ indulgent a parent, who is pleased so  
“ condescendingly to consult the choice  
“ of his daughter in a matter of such im-  
“ portance to her happiness, and though  
“ I feel the most exquisite joy in being  
“ restored to your arms, yet the recent  
“ death of my brother, who fell  
“ in defence of his sister’s honour, hath  
“ left such impression on my heart,  
“ that at present it cannot admit of  
“ the blandishments of love. I can  
“ only say that I have a proper sense of  
“ the merit of Sefi Ali Khan and of  
“ the distinction he has shewn me,  
“ and shall always retain the most  
“ grateful sentiments of my deliverance  
“ from

“ from the robbers, who attempted  
“ violently to carry me away, effected  
“ by his and his brother’s prowess.  
“ It is not impossible but I may some  
“ time give Sefi a convincing proof of  
“ my attachment as well as gratitude by  
“ concurring with those wishes which  
“ both you and he have expressed, and  
“ to which I will acknowledge I find  
“ no reluctance in my own heart.  
“ But I beg, my dear father,” continued  
“ she, “ that neither you nor Sefi Ali  
“ Khan will urge this point further  
“ at present, as my heart is too much  
“ agitated by the extremes of joy and  
“ grief to listen to the sollicitations of  
“ love with those mutual sentiments of  
“ affection and tenderness which can  
“ alone render the intercourse of lovers  
“ endearing and agreeable.” I told her,  
“ that I not only allowed, but ap-  
“ proved

“ proved of her reasons for deferring  
“ for some time the thoughts of a con-  
“ nection, so entertain which as they  
“ ought to be, required a mind tran-  
“ quil, cheerful, and unembarrassed by  
“ other cares; but that I hoped she  
“ would in proper time give that en-  
“ couragement to the suit of a noble  
“ youth, to which his own merit seemed  
“ so well to entitle him, and which  
“ the obligations that both she and  
“ I lay under to him, gave him ad-  
“ ditional reason to expect.”

“ Sefi Ali Khan, afraid perhaps that  
“ the delicacy of Fatima might be  
“ hurt by pushing the matter too far,  
“ thought proper to interpose, by assur-  
“ ing us that he exempted us from  
“ all obligations to him upon the score  
“ of gratitude, as he had done nothing

“ more for her, than he would have  
“ done for any young lady placed in  
“ the same circumstances. He said, he  
“ wished to be indebted to her love, not  
“ to her gratitude, for the preference  
“ he solicited; then addressing himself  
“ to Fatima, whose hand he gently  
“ seized and pressed to his heart, “ I am  
“ transported with joy, my dear Fatima,”  
“ said he, “ at the encouragement you  
“ have given me to hope for a return to a  
“ passion as pure, ardent, and unalterable  
“ as was ever lighted up in the human  
“ breast. In the meantime I will at present  
“ desist from my suit, which the state  
“ of your mind and other circumstances  
“ may just now render unseasonable,  
“ in hopes of your listening to my  
“ solicitations at a more convenient  
“ time, only begging your permission,  
“ with the approbation of your father,



“ to visit you now and then in this  
“ solitude, where all my treasure is  
“ contained.”

“ Fatima told him that as her father  
“ approved of his proposals, his visits  
“ would always be agreeable to her;  
“ and I assured him of his meeting  
“ with a welcome reception at my  
“ hermitage. I then desired Fatima  
“ to set before our guests such pro-  
“ visions as were to be found in our  
“ cell, which she did with a frankness  
“ and grace that pleased them all, and  
“ particularly Sefi Ali Khan, who  
“ seemed to be enchanted with her  
“ whole behaviour. As we sat down  
“ to eat, the remembrance of my son  
“ whom I had so lately lost, and who used  
“ to participate with us in our simple  
“ repast, clouded upon my soul and

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“ swelled my throbbing heart. I ob-  
 “ served my daughter affected in the  
 “ same manner, while the big drops  
 “ started from her eye, and trickled  
 “ down her cheek; both Gamul Beg  
 “ and his two sisters appeared to  
 “ sympathize with our grief; but Sefi  
 “ Ali Khan entered into it with a  
 “ feeling peculiar to himself, and catch-  
 “ ing the contagion of sorrow from the  
 “ eyes of Fatima, by whom he had been  
 “ informed of the merit of Alibeg,  
 “ he lamented his death as if he had  
 “ been his own brother. The strong  
 “ sympathy discovered by Sefi in par-  
 “ ticular, contributed to sooth and  
 “ to assuage my grief, and pleased me  
 “ the more, as I considered it as an  
 “ indication of the humanity of his  
 “ disposition and of the tenderness  
 “ of his heart, which agreeably flattered  
 “ me

“ me with the hopes of his proving a  
 “ kind and affectionate husband to my  
 “ daughter. Fatima observed his emo-  
 “ tion, and I perceived with pleasure,  
 “ that from this specimen of his dis-  
 “ position, he seemed gradually to  
 “ gain her affections and to grow in  
 “ her esteem.

“ In order to comfort both my guests  
 “ and myself, I related to them the  
 “ wonderful circumstances that had  
 “ been exhibited to me in a dream or a  
 “ vision, which seemed to astonish them  
 “ all exceedingly, and especially Fatima  
 “ whose attention hung upon my lips;  
 “ and while we contemplated the happy  
 “ state of Selima and Alibeg, our souls  
 “ were at once composed into resig-  
 “ nation and glowed with the raptures  
 “ of sublime devotion.

N 5. . . . “ After

“ After our guests had shared in the  
 “ moderate repast which had been pre-  
 “ pared for them, Sefi Ali Khan, his  
 “ brother and sisters, took their leave of  
 “ us and set out for their place of  
 “ abode, which was about a day’s jour-  
 “ ney from my cell. Sefi visited us  
 “ at least once every week for several  
 “ months, and continued upon a far-  
 “ ther acquaintance to improve in mine  
 “ as well as my daughter’s esteem; and  
 “ Fatima having acknowledged her  
 “ attachment to him, at last agreed to  
 “ reward his merit, by giving him her  
 “ hand as she had already done her  
 “ heart. The amiable youth, enraptur-  
 “ ed with joy at the ingenuous declara-  
 “ tion which Fatima made of her affection  
 “ for him, that had indeed taken place  
 “ in her heart much sooner than she  
 “ herself imagined, and at the consent  
 “ she

“ she had given to that union he had  
“ so long solicited, said, “ There was no  
“ circumstance wanting to render his  
“ happiness complete but one, and that  
“ was my agreeing to spend the remainder  
“ of my days with my daughter and him  
“ at Shirwan, where the duties of his  
“ office as Cadi of that place necessarily  
“ obliged him to reside.” My daughter  
“ earnestly joined with Sefi Ali Khan  
“ in this request, and both of them hav-  
“ ing represented to me that the cell  
“ in which I had lived so many years,  
“ and which had been the scene of  
“ the most exquisite happiness and  
“ misery I had ever experienced, could,  
“ after the death of my wife and son  
“ and the departure of my daughter, sug-  
“ gest nothing but melancholy ideas,  
“ by exhibiting to my view objects that  
“ were calculated to open up the foun-  
“ tain

“ tain of my grief a-fresh, and recal  
 “ to my remembrance pleasures that  
 “ could never return, they urged me to  
 “ leave a place that served only to  
 “ renew the remembrance of my cala-  
 “ mities, and to pass the remaining part  
 “ of my life with them, which, they said,  
 “ they hoped would be most conducive  
 “ to my tranquillity and comfort.

“ After thanking them for their kind  
 “ invitation, I told them, that though all  
 “ my earthly felicity centered in them,  
 “ who were now the only objects of  
 “ my tender and parental affections, yet  
 “ there was in this place, melancholy  
 “ and desolate as it must now appear  
 “ to me, some secret but mysterious  
 “ and powerful charm, which invisibly  
 “ attached me to it; and though all the  
 “ objects around me could only serve  
 “ to

“ to remind me of what had once been,  
 “ and to recall to my pensive mind  
 “ pleasures which could never return,  
 “ yet the very recollections of those  
 “ pleasures, which I enjoyed with my  
 “ beloved Selima, in this once delight-  
 “ ful, now, alas mournful retreat, inspir-  
 “ ed me with a certain sublime but pleas-  
 “ ing melancholy, which I would not  
 “ forego for all the enjoyments which  
 “ the sons of avarice, sensuality, or am-  
 “ bition can hope to obtain.” “ Urge  
 “ me not therefore, my dear children,”  
 “ said I, “ to leave a place to which I  
 “ am attached by numberless and in-  
 “ resistible ties. I will however often  
 “ visit you, and hope to be often visited  
 “ by you. Your endearing society  
 “ will cheer my lonely retreat, and  
 “ enable me to pass the evening of my  
 “ life in serene tranquillity. But this  
 “ spot

“ spot shall be the fixed place of my  
 “ abode. Here I have lived many  
 “ years; and some of them in a state  
 “ of as exquisite happiness as ever was  
 “ allotted to humanity;—and here I  
 “ will die. I long for the happy  
 “ moment which shall mingle my ashes  
 “ with those of Selima, and which shall  
 “ indissolubly reunite us together in  
 “ the mansions of the blessed.” Find-  
 “ ing me determined in the choice  
 “ of my plan of life, they desisted from  
 “ using any further arguments in order  
 “ to prevail with me to alter it.

“ In a little after we all set out to-  
 “ gether for Shirwan, where Sefi Ali  
 “ Khan was married to my daughter by  
 “ the Iman of the place, and having  
 “ spent a few weeks with them at Shir-  
 “ wan, I returned again to this solitary  
 “ but



“ but peaceful retreat, where I intend  
“ to pass the remaining part of my life  
“ in the exercises of piety and virtue,  
“ in the quiet contemplation of the  
“ vicissitude of mortality, and in pre-  
“ paring my soul for the felicity of  
“ Paradise. •

“ Sefi Ali Khan and my daughter  
“ have now lived about twelve years in  
“ a reciprocal intercourse of the most  
“ endearing affection and friendship,  
“ and I have been treated by them with  
“ all that attention and filial reverence  
“ which a parent could wish for. My  
“ comfort likewise hath been greatly  
“ increased by seeing a family of pro-  
“ mising children which Fatima hath  
“ born to Sefi, rising around me, like  
“ thriving plants in a well-cultivated  
“ garden; and it hath been a great part  
“ of

“ of my employment to assist the pious  
“ cares of the parents in forming their  
“ minds to the love and exercise of  
“ virtue, in which our united labours  
“ have hitherto been attended with all  
“ the success we could expect. Though  
“ I feel a peculiar satisfaction in the  
“ discharge of the duties of this office,  
“ which I consider as particularly in-  
“ cumbent upon me, and which I exe-  
“ cute with a watchful, tender, and plea-  
“ sing assiduity; and though I have fre-  
“ quently the happiness of seeing my  
“ dear Fatima and her husband, both  
“ here at Shirwan, and enjoy the comforts  
“ of the most agreeable domestic society  
“ in their company, yet my soul is wed-  
“ ded to this solitude, where every object  
“ around me recalls to my remembrance  
“ the image of the dear deceased, and the  
“ happiness

“ happiness I once enjoyed in their  
“ endearing society.

“ While I sit on this grave where their  
“ mortal tenements are deposited, and  
“ water their ashes with my tears, while  
“ I think of the mournful vicissitudes  
“ of human life in general, and of those  
“ in particular which I myself have been  
“ doomed to experience, I feel a certain  
“ pensive and sublime melancholy tak-  
“ ing place in my mind, which delights  
“ to muse on those mournful subjects as  
“ most congenial to the disposition that  
“ suggests them, and my soul carrying its  
“ views beyond this scene of perpetual  
“ mutation anticipates the hope and  
“ pants for the fruition of the joys of  
“ immortality.

“ Such,

“ Such, Amur, is the history of my life;  
 “ let thy soul drink instruction from the  
 “ lesson it contains, as the tender flowers  
 “ drinking the dews of heaven, which  
 “ adorn them with the colours of beauty,  
 “ bestow on them their glossy enamel,  
 “ and diffuse those agreeable odours that  
 “ regale our senses with their fragrance.  
 “ Let this important truth be engraved  
 “ on the tablets of thy heart, that afflic-  
 “ tion of one kind or another is the  
 “ lot of man; but that those who submit  
 “ to the irremediable evils of life with  
 “ patience and resignation, or overcome  
 “ them by the exertion of superior for-  
 “ titude, are the only persons who reap  
 “ real advantage from the afflictions to  
 “ which they are subjected. Remember  
 “ that man is a sojourner upon earth, a  
 “ traveller towards paradise, his native  
 “ home; and that the joys and sorrows

“ of mortality, when put in competition  
“ with that state of endless happiness or  
“ misery which shall succeed the present,  
“ is as the drop of the bucket, com-  
“ pared with the river Ganges, which  
“ rolls its majestic course through the  
“ plains of Indostan, or the scanty rill  
“ that refreshes some verdant meadow,  
“ compared with the immense ocean that  
“ fixes the boundaries of kingdoms and  
“ incircles the habitable world.”

As he spoke the angel of instruction  
impressed the truths he delivered on the  
minds of his guests. Rhedi returned to his  
cell in peace, and Amur, Almerine,  
and Mouli, with minds composed into  
resignation and tranquillity, took  
their way through the wilderness of  
Ararat.

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