

THE  
HISTORY

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RHEIDI

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

AN

ORIENTAL TALE.

W. Duff

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THE  
HISTORY

OF

RHEDI,

THE HERMIT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

**I**N the reign of our sovereign lord  
Almalek, of which historians have  
not fixed the commencement or the  
period, Amur Aslan Khan, descended  
from one of the most illustrious fami-  
lies of Persia, obtained the government  
of Ghilan, as the reward of his ap-  
proved fidelity and virtue. Under the  
administration of Amur, the balance of

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justice

## THE HISTORY OF

justice was suspended, with an equal  
po~~or~~ betwixt poor and rich; the  
scourge was wrested from the hand of  
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reward; and the wants of the necessi-  
tous poor were supplied by the over-  
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learning and ingenuity found a con-  
summate judge and a munificent pa-  
tron; virtue reared her fearless head  
under the protection of his shel-  
tering arm; and vice fled like the  
shades of night, before the ap-  
proach of dawn, from the lightning of  
his eye. The afflicted widow derived  
consolation from the sympathy of his  
heart, and the beneficence of his con-  
duct; and the helpless orphan, rejoic-  
ing in the diffusion of his liberality,  
regarded him as a second parent, and  
implored that a tenfold return might  
be

he made to him of the blessings he bestowed.

Yet Amur, endowed as he was by nature with a humanity and benevolence of disposition, united with an incorruptible integrity of heart, which he had cultivated by discipline, and improved by habit, was not exempted from the stroke of affliction, or the shafts of calumny, from the arrow that flieth in secret, or from the sudden blast of unforeseen destruction, that razes all the ideal structures of happiness which fancy hath reared, from the foundation.

At the same time that Amur Aslan Khan enjoyed the government of Ghilan, Askeri Khan, whose character was in every respect a contrast to that



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justice was suspended with an equal po<sup>r</sup> betwixt poor and rich; the scourge was wrested from the hand of oppression; honest industry received, and enjoyed in security, its well earned reward; and the wants of the necessitous poor were supplied by the overflowings of his bounty. In Amur, learning and ingenuity found a consummate judge and a munificent patron; virtue reared her fearless head under the protection of his sheltering arm; and vice fled like the shades of night, before the approach of dawn, from the lightning of his eye. The afflicted widow derived consolation from the sympathy of his heart, and the beneficence of his conduct; and the helpless orphan, rejoicing in the diffusion of his liberality, regarded him as a second parent, and implored that a tenfold return might be

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At the same time that Amur Aslan Khan enjoyed the government of Ghilan, Askeri Khan, whose character was in every respect a contrast to that

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of Amur, presided over the neighbouring province of Attibutzan. The heart of Askeri perpetually boiled with selfish and malignant passions, which brooded over it, as the noisome vapours that arise from the fens of Babylon hover above the marshes from which they are exhaled. The superior merit and growing reputation of Amur had been long objects of jealousy and envy to Askeri, whose little soul shrunk from the effulgence of the character of his rival, as the night birds, that haunt the ruined domes of Persepolis, shrink from the splendor of the luminary of day. Askeri, naturally cruel and malicious, was likewise dark, cunning, and deceitful; and despairing to emulate the character of his rival, as well as unwilling to attempt it, he basely resolved to throw the stains of slander and

and reproach on a character, whose lustre discovered to him the foulness and deformity of his own, and served at once both to confound and upbraid him.

As the means of accomplishing the designs of craft and villainy are seldom wanting to those who have once formed them, an occasion soon presented itself, of executing the wicked purposes which his heart had for some time meditated.

Nasr Ali Beg, nephew to Askeri, and whose character was in most respects similar to that of his uncle, having, by a fraudulent conveyance, obtained a disposition to an estate in the province of Ghilan, which was acquired by rapine and extortion, Amur,

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before whose tribunal the cause was pleaded, set aside the claim, both of Nafr and the nearest heir, upon a clear proof of its having been unjustly acquired, and confiscated the whole for the use of the Sophy. Nafr, disappointed and irritated at a sentence, which, however just in itself, precluded the views of his unfair policy, and prevented the gratification of his forbidden avarice, represented the affair to his uncle Askeri; and both of them, actuated by sentiments of the greatest malignity towards Amur, concurred in suborning witnesses to swear, that he had given in a false estimate of the estate, and had appropriated the greatest part of it to his own use. Having gained over the Vizier, Aman Ola, a man of a most flagitious character, to their interest, by promising to share the

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the spoil with him, they forged an artful and plausible tale, which some of their own creatures, allured by largesses, engaged to support, and presented it to the Sophy, in the form of an accusation or complaint against the governor; in consequence of which a royal mandate was immediately issued for apprehending Amur, and for bringing him before the tribunal of the Sophy of Persia, to answer to the accusation brought against him by Nasr Ali Beg, of his having defrauded him of an estate, which had been bequeathed to him by a relation, and of his having secured the greatest part of it to himself, while he pretended to sequester it, upon the plea of its being unjustly acquired, for the benefit of the Sophy.

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Gurgi Khan, a friend of Amur, who resided at Jopakan, having got intelligence of what was transacting to his prejudice, immediately sent off an express with a letter, to inform him of his danger; who, travelling day and night, arrived at Ghilan two days before the guard that was sent on purpose to apprehend Amur. When the courier arrived, the governor was in company with Almerine his wife, and Mouli a Turkish merchant, who had come to Ghilan with several bales of goods he had brought for sale, and with whom he had contracted an intimate friendship. Amur, whose mind was firm as the promontory that repels the waves in the gulf of Ormus, was astonished, but not terrified, at the intimation he had received; and, conscious of his innocence, determined at first, at all hazards,

zards, to vindicate his conduct. When Almerine and Mouli, however, were informed of the contents of the letter, alarmed with apprehensions for the fate of Amur, they joined in earnest intreaties that he would provide for his safety by flight, in which they proposed to accompany him, carrying along with them his only son, Riza Couli, a boy of about ten years of age, and of a very promising genius, and two or three servants, with as many camels, loaded with their most valuable effects. Mouli proposed that they should all together direct their course towards Aleppo, where he resided, and where he assured them of a safe retreat, and of a hospitable reception. Amur, regarding his flight as in some measure inconsistent with the heroism and intrepidity of his character,



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and thinking it might be construed into a tacit acquiescence in the charge brought against him by his enemies, appeared extremely reluctant to comply with the solicitations of Almerine and Mouli; but an old domestic, who was named Mansur, and who had been long in his service; though he was then in the family of Askeri, having wrote him a letter, which came to his hand at that instant, informing him of all the particulars of the plot that had been contrived against him, he complied at last with the importunity of his friends, and instantly prepared for setting out with all possible expedition.

Amur having left a paper for the perusal of the Sophy, containing a vindication of his conduct, and an account  
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on the reasons of his flight, began his journey, with his friend and little family, in about two hours after, for the city of Aleppo. As they set out in the night, and travelled for some time with the utmost dispatch, they arrived by day-light at a small cottage on the extremity of the province of Attirbutzan, where they got a little refreshment, and taking their rout through Shirwart, they proceeded on their journey, by the most unfrequented roads, towards mount Ararat, intending to pass over that mountain, and thence through Armenia, to Aleppo. After travelling six days with all the expedition they were capable of, they arrived at the foot of that part of mount Ararat which is covered with wood; and as they were properly armed for defending themselves against the

wild beasts, in case they should be attacked, and imagined that by traveling through the wood, they would be in less hazard of being discovered, they entered it without further deliberation, and following the winding path which pointed out their course, they came to a small opening, where the pasturage being good for their camels, they resolved to repose and refresh themselves a little, after the fatigue they had undergone.

During this interval, a fatal accident happened, which plunged them all in the deepest distress, and almost overwhelmed even the soul of Amur, with a weight of misery, which the utmost exertion of his reason and fortitude could scarce enable him to sustain. Riza Couli, his son, having wandered a little

a little into the wood from the rest of the company, for his amusement, and happening to penetrate into the thickest part of the forest, where he lost his way, was observed by a wild boar, who rushing upon him furiously, tore the unhappy child to pieces on the spot. His screams however were heard by the rest, and his father and Mouli flasting up in a wild transport of amazement and horror, flew in an instant to the place from which the screams seemed to proceed; but before they arrived, the savage monster had destroyed the child, whom, scared from his prey by the sudden appearance of Amur and Mouli, he left miserably mangled, and on the point of expiring. Amur seeing the body of his dear Riza Couli thus cruelly torn, and all bathed in blood, was transfixed with horror and agony

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agony at the spectacle, and falling prostrate on the earth, he groaned with inexpressible anguish, beating his breast, and looking towards heaven, as if he accused Providence on account of the severity of its dispensations. Almerine having by this time come up, and having had a glimpse of the bloody corpse of her son, uttered a wild and doleful shriek, and fainted away in the arms of the servants who attended her. When she had recovered from the swoon into which she had fallen, she pierced the air with her cries, and embracing the mangled body of her child, intreated him to answer her, as if he had heard her call. Mouli, deeply affected with the pathetic scene which was exhibited before him, expressed the strongest sympathy with this much-afflicted pair, and did all in his power

to sooth and comfort them under their distress. As he perceived, however, that all his endeavours would be ineffectual, while the object that excited and renewed their grief was before their eyes, he resolved to prepare for the interment of the unfortunate Riza Couli; and having, with the assistance of the servants, dug a grave on the spot, they went in order to take up the corpse, and interr it in the grave which they had digged. Almerine knowing their intention, clung to the body of her dear child, as if she was resolved not to be separated from him; but Amur, whose feelings were as strong as those of Almerine, though they were more under the controul of reason, seconding the endeavours of Mouli, they at last, partly by intreaties and expostulations, and partly by force,

force, loosed him from her embraces; and Amur, with a heart overwhelmed with sorrow, paid the last debt to the unhappy Riza, by consigning him to the dust. After performing this melancholy office, Mouli proposed that they should immediately leave a place that suggested many mournful ideas, which Amur readily agreed to, and having ordered the servants to get the camels in readiness, they dragged Atmerine with difficulty from the spot where her Riza Couli was buried, and proceeded on their journey with bursting hearts.

After travelling several miles in the path in which they had set out, they came to a delightful lawn in the middle of the wood, through which there glided a transparent stream, that took  
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its rise from a neighbouring mountain, and rushing through several rocks, that were half discovered through the trees at a little distance, and seemed as it were jagged and scooped out by the fall of the water, formed a variety of natural cascades, which by their murmuring and dashing against the rocks, pleased the ear, and invited to repose.

In the upper end of the meadow, on a small eminence, they espied a grotto, which nature herself seemed to have dug out of the rock that overshadowed it, but which the hand of art appeared to have improved, and to have rendered more commodious and agreeable. On each side of the grotto there grew a large spreading tree, whether planted by the hand of art or nature is uncertain, which rendered the appearance of the place altogether more pleasing and picturesque;



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turesque; and while they contributed to its coolness, during the scorching heats of summer, they likewise served to screen it from the piercing blasts of winter. While Amur was looking around him, on a scene that, in spite of dismal ideas which possessed his mind, in some degree attracted his attention, he observed a person towards the decline of life, of a venerable but melancholy aspect, approaching towards him. His hair was silvered, partly by the hand of time, and partly by the pangs of sorrow he had often felt; gentle benignity and tender pity beamed in his eye, and regarding each of them alternately, with a look of complacency that bespoke the humanity of his soul, and which inspired confidence, at the same time that it excited sentiments of gratitude and affection in the

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the minds of his guests ; " Welcome,  
" my children," said he, " to this  
" humble but hospitable roof. Here  
" opulence displays not her costly fur-  
" niture ; nor does the hand of luxury  
" spread forth her dainties, in order to  
" pamper the sated appetite ; but sim-  
" plicity prepares the moderate repast,  
" and exercise and health, peace and  
" innocence, render it tasteful. Enter  
" therefore this lowly dwelling, and  
" repose yourselves on yonder mossy  
" couch," pointing to a seat in the  
back of the grotto, " while I set be-  
" fore you such entertainment as this  
" cot affords." He then brought them  
some excellent milk and cheese, toge-  
ther with dates and pistachio nuts, of  
which they made a temperate meal,  
thanking their benevolent host for his  
kindness and hospitality. After the  
calls

calls of hunger were satisfied, the stranger who had welcomed them to this delightful solitude, actuated by that sympathy of soul which usually distinguishes those to whom suffering hath been familiar, expressed by his looks an earnest desire to be acquainted with the history of his unknown guests; and regarding each of them attentively, one after another, his eye rested upon Amur, on whom he gazed with a steadfast look of mournful sympathy, as if he read his misfortunes in his countenance. The sympathetic soul of Amur was affected in the same manner; his feelings entirely corresponded to those of this unknown person; he gazed on him with equal steadiness, and, swallowed up as his mind was in the contemplation of his own misfortunes, the expression of his

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countenance indicated a strong desire to be informed of the incidents in the life of a man whose appearance had so much arrested his attention. They continued for some time looking at each other with expressive silence, till at last the stranger, addressing himself to Amur, "Son of affliction," said he, "I perceive, from thy dejected air, and the traits of melancholy which grief hath imprinted on the countenance of thee and thy companions, that the angel of adversity has laid his chastening hand upon you, and that you have been made to drink of the bitter cup of calamity. Let thy benignity and candour excuse a wish, which not an impertinent curiosity, but the deep-felt interest I take in your misfortunes, hath excited, to know your history, and in particular

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" the cause of that sadness which  
 " weighs down thy soul. I myself have  
 " been inured to misfortune, and from  
 " my own experience have learnt to  
 " feel the misfortunes of others; and  
 " though it may not be in the power  
 " of a fellow mortal to relieve thee  
 " from the pressure of affliction, yet  
 " that Being, who sends afflictions upon  
 " the children of men for the wisest  
 " purposes, may enable me to pour  
 " the balm of sympathy and consola-  
 " tion into thy wounded heart; for  
 " sympathy is grateful to the soul of  
 " the sufferer, as the sound of a mur-  
 " muring stream is grateful to the ear  
 " of the parched traveller climbing the  
 " summit of mount Taurus."—" May  
 " Allah," replied Amur, " second the  
 " kind and benevolent wishes which I  
 " know have arisen in thy sympathetic  
 " heart

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Amur then having informed him, that the lady whom he saw with him was his wife, and that Mouli, whom he pointed to, was his friend, gave him an account of his name, family, and place of abode; acquainted him of the office he had enjoyed of governor of Ghilan; of the plots of his enemies to effectuate his ruin; of the success of their schemes; and of the resolution he had taken to abandon his native country, and retire to Aleppo, with his little family, under the conduct of his friend Mouli, who had advised their flight, and invited him and his family to pass their life with him; concluding with an account of the fatal accident which had befallen his son Riza Couli, his last and only hope.

After

After he had ended his relation, the stranger looking on Amur and Alme-rine with fixed and mournful attention, "Your sufferings," said he, "my friends, have indeed been great, but mine have been still more severe, and the rod of affliction hath been laid upon me with a heavy hand." Amur then, in the name of himself and his friends, respectfully asked the courteous stranger, whose appearance had so much interested them in his fate, to favour them with the history of his life and misfortunes. "I will readily comply with your desire," replied he; "but if it be agreeable to you," added he, "we will repair to yonder grove, which, as it is the scene of the most melancholy and affecting incidents of my life, may possibly aid my relation, by recalling those inci-

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dents



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“dents more vividly to my remembrance, and may enable me more strongly and feelingly to describe the calamities of my life which have made an impression upon my heart that can never be obliterated.” They immediately walked to the grove to which he pointed, and having seated themselves, the stranger fixing his eye upon a spot in the center of it, covered with green turf, heaved a deep-felt sigh; then looking mournfully on the persons who were eagerly expecting his relation, he began the history of his life in the following manner :

“The wretch whom you see before you is Rhedi, the son of Abufaid, one of the chief beglerbegs † of the

† The name by which the Persians distinguish their nobility.

“pro-

“ province of Carimania. My father,  
 “ who was possessed of an ample for-  
 “ tune by inheritance, and had greatly  
 “ augmented that fortune by a frugal  
 “ but decent œconomy, resolved to  
 “ spare no expence in my education;  
 “ and after having provided me with  
 “ the ablest masters in the kingdom,  
 “ for instructing me in the learning of  
 “ the East, in which I had made con-  
 “ siderable progress, he determined, in  
 “ order that I might acquire the most  
 “ valuable arts and sciences of other  
 “ nations, to send me into Europe, un-  
 “ der the tuition of Abulfeda, an inti-  
 “ mate friend of my father, and a man  
 “ of great learning and abilities, which,  
 “ added to his extensive knowledge of  
 “ the world, derived from his long re-  
 “ sidence in foreign courts, rendered  
 “ him one of the most accomplished  
 “ men

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“ men in the empire. At the same  
 “ time that my father neglected no  
 “ means of improving my mind in  
 “ useful knowledge, he was desirous of  
 “ attaching my affections to a young  
 “ lady, whose name was Abbassah, of  
 “ considerable beauty and merit, of an  
 “ opulent fortune, and daughter to  
 “ Savi Mustapha, one of the nobles of  
 “ the province. He was the more solici-  
 “ tous to accomplish this, as I was his  
 “ only child, my mother having died  
 “ while I was very young ; and as my  
 “ father was still a widower, and seem-  
 “ ed determined to continue such, he  
 “ wished, on these accounts, to see  
 “ me engaged in an agreeable con-  
 “ nection by marriage, that might  
 “ give him the hopes of the propaga-  
 “ tion of his name and family. But  
 “ though I was now in the twentieth  
 “ year

“ year of my age, the glance of beauty  
“ had not yet seduced my affections,  
“ nor had love kindled up his flame in  
“ my heart ; whether it was, that an  
“ uninterrupted application to my stu-  
“ dies, accompanied with a certain  
“ pensive turn of mind, which is often  
“ unfavourable to the dominion of the  
“ softer passions, had as yet preserved  
“ my heart easy and tranquil ; or whe-  
“ ther it was, that the Persian ladies  
“ possessed not charms striking and ex-  
“ pressive enough to arrest my affec-  
“ tions, I was never captivated by any  
“ of them to such a degree as to en-  
“ danger my happiness or peace. When  
“ my father observed that I was in a  
“ great measure indifferent to the at-  
“ tractions and blandishments of the  
“ fair sex, he desisted from pushing his  
“ project any farther at present, than

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“ by giving insinuations of what he  
 “ wished might be brought about;  
 “ adding, that though he was ex-  
 “ tremely desirous of my being mar-  
 “ ried to Abbassah, yet he would not,  
 “ in a matter in which the whole com-  
 “ fort of my future life was concerned,  
 “ abuse his parental authority so far, as  
 “ to impose a constraint upon my in-  
 “ clinations, but would allow me to  
 “ follow the natural bent and operation  
 “ of my own passions, in their future  
 “ developement, under the controul of  
 “ reason and reflection, as their surest  
 “ guides, to whose dictates, he said,  
 “ from the experience he had already  
 “ had of my conduct, he was confident,  
 “ that both in selecting and deter-  
 “ mining the objects of my choice, I  
 “ would always shew a proper regard.  
 “ This declaration of my father excited  
 “ the

“ the strongest sentiments of filial re-  
“ spect, gratitude, and affection in my  
“ mind. I told him, that I was deeply  
“ penetrated with a sense of his good-  
“ ness and condescension; that when-  
“ ever I should think of the connexion  
“ he had recommended, I would en-  
“ deavour to make such a choice as to  
“ justify the confidence he had reposed  
“ in me, but that at present I could not  
“ help being of opinion, that till my  
“ education was completed, and I had  
“ returned from my travels, it would  
“ be in every respect most eligible that  
“ my heart continued free, since at-  
“ tachments of the kind he was desirous  
“ of my contracting could not fail to  
“ obstruct my progress in the studies  
“ in which I was engaged. My father,  
“ satisfied with these reasons, contented  
“ himself with giving me a caution, to

“beware of fixing my affections rashly,  
“as he was persuaded that at my re-  
“turn, both my judgment and inclina-  
“tions would induce me to co-operate  
“with his views; and gave immediate  
“orders for every thing to be got ready  
“for my departure. Though I burned  
“with an eager curiosity to see foreign  
“countries, of some of which my  
“imagination had led me to form the  
“most transporting ideas, yet I could  
“not leave the place of my nativity,  
“and the scenes of my youthful amuse-  
“ments and occupations without re-  
“gret, and without feeling a melan-  
“choly presage upon my mind, a pre-  
“sage that has been too surely accom-  
“plished in the event, that of those  
“transporting pleasures that are pecu-  
“liar to youth and innocence, and of  
“that gaiety and giddiness of heart  
“which

“ which are their usual concomitants,  
“ and which had hitherto always attend-  
“ ed me, I should never again parti-  
“ cipate in the same degree; and that  
“ the current of my life, which had as  
“ yet flown in a tenour equally peace-  
“ ful and pleasant, would be far more  
“ tumultuous and turbid in its future  
“ course. Actuated by these various  
“ and mixed emotions, which influen-  
“ ced my mind by turns, I set out on  
“ my travels, with my friend and tutor  
“ Abulfeda, and was accompanied by  
“ my father as far as Gombroon in the  
“ Persian gulph, where I was to em-  
“ bark for Constantinople, the capital  
“ of the Ottoman dominions, in case  
“ we could find a ship for that port;  
“ if not, we proposed to sail in the first  
“ ship bound for Leghorn, Venice, or  
“ any other port in the Mediterranean.

B

“ We



“ We had waited only a few days,  
“ when we found a Turkish vessel  
“ ready to sail for Venice with the first  
“ fair wind ; and having agreed with  
“ the captain, whose name was Abdal-  
“ lah, and a favourable gale springing  
“ up, my father took an affecting  
“ farewell of us both. After recom-  
“ mending us to the protection of  
“ Allah, he addressed himself to Abul-  
“ feda, with a solemn tenderness and  
“ affectionate fervor, which melted  
“ and overpowered my heart, and  
“ which I shall never forget. “ My  
“ ever worthy friend,” said the ten-  
“ der hearted, pious, and venerable  
“ parent, “ to thy care I commit the  
“ dear and only pledge of my Kadi-  
“ jah’s love ! Let the eye of thy dis-  
“ cernment mark out his path, and  
“ the hand of thy experience conduct  
“ his

“ his steps ; let the light of thy know-  
“ ledge and the treasures of thy wis-  
“ dom be poured upon his mind ; and  
“ while thou art solicitous to cultivate  
“ his understanding by travel, conver-  
“ sation, and study, remember that  
“ on thy assiduous endeavours I de-  
“ pend for the formation of his morals,  
“ and for the government of his heart ;  
“ let thine instruction and example  
“ teach him the duties of piety and  
“ benevolence, and let the lessons of  
“ the prophet be instilled into his soul  
“ by thy frequent admonitions, that  
“ his virtues may blossom as the groves  
“ of citron in the gardens of Dama-  
“ cus. Farewel, my son, and my  
“ friend ! the only joy I shall taste of  
“ till your return, will be in antici-  
“ pating the prospect of it, and in  
“ counting the moments which bring.

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“ it nearer. May Allah preserve you  
 “ both from every danger, and speedily  
 “ restore you to my longing  
 “ arms, enriched with the treasures of  
 “ knowledge and virtue acquired by  
 “ your travels into foreign countries !”

“ At these words my father, throwing  
 “ his arms around my neck, we both  
 “ burst out into a flood of tears, which  
 “ for some time deprived us of the  
 “ power of speech, and continued  
 “ locked in each other’s arms, as if  
 “ we had each of us believed it would  
 “ be the last embrace ; till Abulfeda,  
 “ thinking it necessary to separate us,  
 “ in order to prevent the further indul-  
 “ gence of these emotions, the violence  
 “ of which might have been prejudi-  
 “ cial to us both, tore me from his  
 “ bosom, and hurrying me into the  
 “ ship, ordered the mariners instantly

“ to

“ to hoist the sails, which were done  
“ with such dispatch, that the vessel  
“ flying before the wind, we were in a  
“ few minutes out of each other’s  
“ sight ; and in a short time after, no-  
“ thing was to be seen above or around  
“ us but the vast ocean and the bound-  
“ less hemisphere. For some time,  
“ both my sleep and appetite forsook  
“ me ; but the powers of nature,  
“ which were exhausted, requiring a  
“ recruit, they both returned, and I  
“ recovered my former serenity and  
“ cheerfulness, in proportion as we  
“ drew nearer to Europe. After a  
“ voyage of four months, we at last  
“ arrived in safety at Venice. I was  
“ astonished and delighted with the  
“ first appearance of this noble city.  
“ The number of the canals and  
“ bridges, the magnificence of the  
“ buildings,

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“ buildings, and the prodigious flow of  
“ commerce, which seemed to pour its  
“ treasures perpetually into its bosom,  
“ gave me an high idea of European  
“ opulence and grandeur, while its  
“ situation, rising as it were out of the  
“ ocean, seemed to ascertain its domi-  
“ nion over the watery element.

“ After spending three weeks at  
“ Venice, we visited Florence, Rome,  
“ Genoa, and the other principal cities  
“ of Italy, and embarking at Leg-  
“ horn, sailed for Gibraltar, where  
“ having staid a few days, we travelled  
“ through Spain, France, Germany,  
“ Poland, and Transylvania; and  
“ after a course of about three  
“ thousand miles, we arrived at Con-  
“ stantinople, eighteen months after  
“ our setting out from Gibraltar. The  
“ variety

“ variety of places I had seen, the quick  
“ succession of scenes I had passed  
“ through, and, the peculiar customs,  
“ manners, and dispositions of the dif-  
“ ferent nations I had visited, contri-  
“ buted so much to the amulement of  
“ my imagination, the improvement of  
“ my understanding, and the increase  
“ of my knowledge of human nature,  
“ that I had almost forgot my native  
“ country, and felt very little desire to  
“ hasten my return to it. That anxiety  
“ and timid caution which are natural  
“ to a youthful traveller, on his first  
“ launching out into the world, toge-  
“ ther with a certain painful sensation,  
“ resulting from the consciousness of  
“ the distance he is at from the place of  
“ his abode, his family and friends,  
“ were now no longer felt : I considered  
“ the world in general as the great  
“ theatre

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" theatre on which I was to act : parti-  
 " cular countries I preferred only so  
 " far as they contributed to my plea-  
 " sure and improvement; and in pro-  
 " portion as my ideas of the varieties  
 " in the face of nature and in human  
 " characters were enlarged, my attach-  
 " ment to any particular spot was  
 " greatly diminished. While I was  
 " thus travelling from place to place,  
 " with all the ardor of eager curiosity  
 " and of sanguine hope, deriving new  
 " enjoyment from every succession of  
 " new objects that presented them-  
 " selves to my mind, a melancholy ac-  
 " cident which fell out in this flow of  
 " my felicity, at once damped the vi-  
 " gour of my pursuits, and for some  
 " time put a stop to my career in the  
 " bustle of life. This was the death  
 " of my worthy friend and tutor Abul-

" feda,

“ feda, who by his instructive conver-  
“ sation and amiable manners had con-  
“ ciliated my esteem and affection to  
“ such a degree, that I regarded him  
“ as a second parent. His death  
“ therefore was a severe blow, which  
“ my utmost fortitude could scarce  
“ enable me to sustain. I shut myself  
“ up in my chamber for several weeks,  
“ and indulged my grief, in lamenting  
“ the loss of my dear deceased friend,  
“ till finding my health impaired by my  
“ confinement, I determined, for its  
“ re-establishment, to travel to Persia  
“ over land, taking the rout through  
“ Armenia and Georgia, which last  
“ place I was particularly desirous of  
“ seeing upon account of the strenuous  
“ efforts its princes had made, in the  
“ defence of their liberties, against the  
“ tyranny both of the Persian and the  
“ Ottoman



“ Ottoman court. Having by a letter  
“ informed my father of the melan-  
“ choly death of Abulfeda, and got  
“ every thing ready for my departure,  
“ I set out on my journey, but felt  
“ myself in a very different situation  
“ from what I had been in a few days  
“ before. Deprived of my dear Abul-  
“ feda, who had been my companion  
“ through so many remote countries,  
“ and whose judicious observations  
“ rendered my travels both instructive  
“ and entertaining, I began now to  
“ sigh for the place of my nativity, and  
“ earnestly wished to embrace my  
“ father, and to pour my soul into his  
“ affectionate bosom. But an event,  
“ the fruitful source both of the most  
“ exquisite happiness and misery I had  
“ ever felt, soon after happened, which  
“ produced a total alteration in the  
“ state

“ state of my mind, and in my future  
 “ prospects.

“ Having travelled through Arme-  
 “ nia without any remarkable occur-  
 “ rence, and felt my health greatly  
 “ improved, as well as my spirits re-  
 “ stored, by moderate exercise, serene  
 “ weather, and the agreeable scenes of  
 “ rural life which were frequently ex-  
 “ hibited to my view, I arrived at  
 “ Tefflis, the capital of Georgia, in-  
 “ tending, after making a short stay in  
 “ that city, to take the nearest rout to  
 “ Kerman in Carimania, the place of  
 “ my nativity. During my abode in  
 “ Tefflis, I spent my time principally  
 “ in studying the genius and manners  
 “ of the Georgians, and was struck  
 “ with admiration and surprize at that  
 “ heroic ardor with which they seemed  
 “ to

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“ to be actuated, and which, inflamed  
 “ as it was by a passion for liberty and  
 “ independence, rendered them, not-  
 “ withstanding the small extent of ter-  
 “ ritory they possessed, objects of jea-  
 “ lousy and dread to the Ottoman em-  
 “ pire. As I had already transgressed  
 “ the utmost limits of the time I had  
 “ prescribed for my stay, I gave orders  
 “ to have every thing in readiness for  
 “ my departure against next morning, re-  
 “ solving to proceed on my journey with  
 “ all convenient expedition. The day  
 “ before I set out I spent in bidding fare-  
 “ wel to several persons of distinguished  
 “ merit, with whom I had contracted an  
 “ acquaintance during the short time I  
 “ continued at Tesslis. Returning from  
 “ a visit of this kind in the forenoon,  
 “ I walked on insensibly, till I came to  
 “ the opening of a narrow sequestred  
 “ avenue,

“avenue, at some distance from the  
 “high road, and observing that the  
 “avenue to which I had come, though  
 “seldom frequented by travellers, pro-  
 “mised to conduct me by a nearer  
 “and more agreeable passage to my  
 “own lodgings, at the same time that  
 “the overshadowing trees would afford  
 “me shelter from the heat of the sun,  
 “which blazed forth with meridian  
 “fervor ; I entered it without any far-  
 “ther reflection, the gate having been  
 “left open by the negligence of the  
 “porter ; and perceiving that it led  
 “along the outside wall of a garden,  
 “I followed its direction without im-  
 “pediment, till my attention was all at  
 “once arrested by the sound of some  
 “female voices which I heard in an ad-  
 “joining grove. Having come to a  
 “higher part of the avenue, which  
 “rose

“ rose almost to a level with the wall,  
“ prompted by curiosity, I looked  
“ through a hedge which grew upon  
“ the top of it, and perceived three  
“ ladies sitting in a reclining posture  
“ in the grove, to which they had re-  
“ tired, after bathing in a pond which  
“ was near it. Two of the ladies ha-  
“ ving taken off their veils, appeared  
“ to be very beautiful, though I did  
“ not feel my heart affected by their  
“ charms; the other had not yet disco-  
“ vered her face, but rising from the  
“ bank on which she had been sitting  
“ in the grove, she walked along the  
“ terras, close by the hedge through  
“ which I had been looking at her,  
“ and exhibited to my view the most  
“ graceful shape and deportment I had  
“ ever beheld. Struck with the grace-  
“ fulness of her mien and person, I  
“ followed

" followed her steps along the outside  
 " wall of the garden, in expectation of  
 " obtaining, by some lucky accident, a  
 " view of her face. At last, feeling  
 " herself a little too warm with the  
 " heat of the sun, she took off her um-  
 " brella, and displayed to my admiring  
 " view a splendor of beauty that might  
 " have vied with that of the daughters  
 " of paradise. I continued for some  
 " time wrapt in astonishment; I gazed  
 " on her charms with rapture and de-  
 " light; I essayed to speak, but sur-  
 " prize, confusion, fear, and respect,  
 " all joined together, restrained my  
 " faltering tongue. I perceived that  
 " love had in one moment taken pos-  
 " session of my heart, and that my at-  
 " tachment to this unknown fair one  
 " had all the ardor and strength of a  
 " deep-rooted passion. I continued  
 " walking

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“ walking on the outside of the garden,  
 “ keeping still in my eye the lady  
 “ whose beauty had so ravished my  
 “ senses, till I observed her enter ano-  
 “ ther arbour at the end of the walk,  
 “ when taking a book out of her poc-  
 “ ket, she sat down within the arbour,  
 “ and began to read, without seeming to  
 “ have any suspicion of being seen by  
 “ any one. I kept my eyes for some  
 “ time immoveably fixed on this di-  
 “ vine creature, but knew not how to  
 “ find an opportunity of recommending  
 “ myself to her favour, and of decla-  
 “ ring my passion; till happening to  
 “ cast my eye upon a back door, which  
 “ seemed to be half open, I deter-  
 “ mined, after much hesitation, and  
 “ after a severe struggle betwixt the  
 “ fear of offending, and the hope of  
 “ exciting some degree of tenderness

“ and love in the heart of one in whom  
“ all my happiness was placed, to enter  
“ the garden. As I approached the  
“ bower in which this enchanting crea-  
“ ture reclined, my knees tottered  
“ under me, scarce able to sustain their  
“ weight, a sudden tremor seized my  
“ nerves, and the confusion which  
“ overspread my mind for some time  
“ sealed my tongue. Having come  
“ to the entrance of the arbour, I pro-  
“ strated myself before her, addressing  
“ her with a faltering accent: “ Par-  
“ don, madam, said I, the presump-  
“ tion of an unfortunate youth, who  
“ has wandered over a great part of  
“ the world, but has never, till this  
“ moment, felt the power of female  
“ charms; though his heart is now so  
“ deeply smitten by the lustre of your  
“ beauty, that he can sooner cease to



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“live than to love you. Let your be-  
 “nignity and pity incline you to for-  
 “give an offence which the violence of  
 “his passion forced him to commit,  
 “and design to accept of an heart the  
 “most constant that ever animated a  
 “human breast, which is wholly and  
 “only yours.”

“Selima, for that was the name of  
 “the lady, eyed me with a mixture of  
 “surprize, emotion, and resentment,  
 “tempered (as I thought) with some  
 “degree of tenderness; and assuming  
 “a severity of accent, which however  
 “seemed foreign to her natural disposi-  
 “tion, “Rash and unthinking man, said  
 “she, what ill-fated accident has brought  
 “thee to a place, where thy detection  
 “would be so dangerous to thyself,  
 “and so dishonourable to me? Or what  
 “motive could have induced thee to  
 “intrude

“intrude upon that privacy which  
“ought to have been held sacred by a  
“respectful lover? As I am apt to  
“impute thy extravagant temerity to  
“an ill-timed passion for me, I am un-  
“willing thou shouldst suffer by an  
“indiscretion of which I myself may  
“have been the cause. If, however,  
“thou hast any regard to my repu-  
“tation, or thy own safety, thou wilt  
“instantly leave this garden.” Ima-  
“gining from the tone of her voice,  
“and from the expression of her eye,  
“that the injunction she had delivered  
“proceeded more from the fear of  
“exposing me to danger, and herself  
“to censure, than from real resentment  
“at my conduct, I replied, “That  
“with regard to my own safety, I was  
“entirely careless about it, while I  
“was engaged in a pursuit far dearer

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“ to me than life, and upon the success  
 “ of which both my life and happi-  
 “ ness depended; that her reputation,  
 “ however with me, outweighed every  
 “ other circumstance; and to shew her,  
 “ how much I was devoted to her  
 “ obedience, I told her, that I would  
 “ that moment leave her presence,  
 “ though it was the most severe  
 “ mortification I could possibly indure,  
 “ in hopes of obtaining some more  
 “ favourable opportunity afterwards of  
 “ declaring the sincerity and fervour  
 “ of a passion, which no time nor  
 “ accident could ever extinguish, or  
 “ abate.”

“ After making this declaration I  
 “ took my leave of Selima in the most  
 “ respectful manner, and returned to  
 “ my own lodgings, with a heart  
 “ entirely

" entirely engrossed by the charms of  
 " this incomparable fair one, and  
 " wholly devoted to the purpose of  
 " forming an honourable connection  
 " with her, the success of which I per-  
 " ceived to be essential to my happi-  
 " ness. As soon as I arrived at my  
 " own apartments in the city, I made  
 " the most prudent enquiry I could,  
 " concerning the relations of the lady  
 " who had obtained the empire of my  
 " heart, and learnt that she was the  
 " daughter of Ezadallah, one of the  
 " Georgian nobility, a man of strict  
 " probity and honour, and who was  
 " universally respected in the place  
 " where he lived. Having got this intel-  
 " ligence, the next object of my solici-  
 " tude was to get myself properly in-  
 " troduced to Ezadallah, which I easily  
 " obtained by means of Ali Merdan

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“ Khan, another Georgian nobleman,  
 “ with whom I had contracted an ac-  
 “ quaintance, and who lived in terms of  
 “ friendship with the father of Selima.  
 “ Without having as yet discovered  
 “ my intentions to Ali Merdan Khan  
 “ I asked him to introduce me to his  
 “ friend Ezadallah, a request with  
 “ which he very cheerfully complied;  
 “ and I was received by that worthy man  
 “ with all the hospitality and kindness  
 “ I could desire. On my first visit  
 “ I was blessed only with a sight of  
 “ Selima covered with a veil, which,  
 “ while it admitted of her seeing others,  
 “ entirely concealed her face from their  
 “ view. Even this circumstance I  
 “ considered as an indulgence, it not  
 “ being the custom in eastern countries  
 “ for the women to appear among  
 “ men who are strangers to them;  
 “ but

“ but as Ezadallah was a man much  
 “ conversant in the world, and whose  
 “ sentiments were enlarged by a com-  
 “ prehensive knowledge of the manners  
 “ and customs of other nations, he  
 “ allowed his daughter greater liberties  
 “ in these things than are usually ad-  
 “ mitted in the East, at the same time  
 “ that he shewed a regard to the  
 “ customs of his country so far as to  
 “ train her up in the practice of wear-  
 “ ing a veil.

“ Though my love was cruelly  
 “ mortified by this circumstance of her  
 “ dress, I endeavoured, with all the in-  
 “ sinuation I was capable of, to recom-  
 “ mend myself to her regard, in which,  
 “ I flattered myself, that I was in some  
 “ degree successful; and having ob-  
 “ tained an invitation from Ezadallah

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“ to repeat my visits as often as my  
 “ conveniency would admit, I took  
 “ my leave at this time, determined  
 “ to embrace an opportunity very soon  
 “ of complying with the invitation I  
 “ had received: about two days after I  
 “ repaired to the house of Ezadallah,  
 “ in expectation of finding some for-  
 “ tunate occasion of renewing my ad-  
 “ dresses to the lovely Selima, whose  
 “ image was impressed upon my soul  
 “ in characters that could never be  
 “ effaced; but she still continued veiled,  
 “ while in company, and I still per-  
 “ severed in my endeavours to render  
 “ myself agreeable to her by all the  
 “ means in my power. After dinner  
 “ however she retired from the rest of  
 “ the company, and I began to re-  
 “ flect, not without a certain fretful-  
 “ ness of temper, on the want of a  
 “ proper

“ proper opportunity to declare a pas-  
 “ sion which occupied my whole heart;  
 “ when, happening to look out at a  
 “ window that faced the garden, I ob-  
 “ served the mistress of my soul walk-  
 “ ing along a terras, and retiring into the  
 “ arbour where I had first discovered her.  
 “ As soon as I perceived her, my heart  
 “ throbbed with hope and fear, with  
 “ joy and impatience. Awed by those  
 “ sentiments of native modesty which  
 “ usually take place in the mind of  
 “ a timid, a respectful, and an unex-  
 “ perienced lover, I stood irresolute  
 “ for a moment, but instigated by the  
 “ irresistible impulse of love, I stole  
 “ unheeded out of a room, and perceiv-  
 “ ing the garden-door open I hurried  
 “ into the garden, and walked up hastily  
 “ to the bower into which I had ob-  
 “ served Selima entering. As I ap-



“ proached the place the palpitation of  
 “ my heart redoubled ; and observing  
 “ the dear creature in the same posture  
 “ in which I had formerly seen her,  
 “ Let not my lovely Selima, said I, re-  
 “ sent as an intrusion upon her privacy  
 “ my embracing the only opportunity  
 “ I could obtain of repeating my de-  
 “ clarations of an affection for her,  
 “ which is as pure and fervent, as it is  
 “ stedfast and unalterable. O let my  
 “ enchanting fair one reward with  
 “ one smile of approbation and com-  
 “ placency the passion to which her  
 “ beauty has given birth, and allow  
 “ me some ground to hope for an  
 “ union which will consummate my  
 “ felicity ?

“ Selima, pleased with the ardour  
 “ and delicacy of my passion, and even  
 “ with

“ with the confusion and timidity I  
 “ discovered in my addresses, which  
 “ to her was a sufficient proof of my  
 “ sincerity, condescended to acquaint  
 “ me that her heart was not altogether  
 “ indifferent to the accomplishments of  
 “ which, in her eye, I appeared to be  
 “ possessed, and that if, upon a more  
 “ particular acquaintance, my character  
 “ corresponded to this appearance, and  
 “ my proposals were approved of by  
 “ her father, perhaps my suit, in the  
 “ end, might not prove unsuccessful.”  
 “ Transported with the intimation she  
 “ had given me, I seized her hand once  
 “ more, which, with a smile of ineffable  
 “ benignity and sweetness, she allowed me  
 “ to press to my bosom ; and kissing it  
 “ with the utmost respect and tender-  
 “ ness, I took my leave of my charm-  
 “ ing Selima with an exultation and

“ transport that well nigh endangered  
 “ my reason. Perceiving that this  
 “ new attachment, which entirely occu-  
 “ pied my soul, would necessarily  
 “ require my staying a considerable  
 “ time in Tefflis, I immediately dis-  
 “ charged the servants and camels  
 “ which I had hired, and devoted my-  
 “ self wholly to the cares of love.

“ With this view I repeated my visits  
 “ to Ezadallah, the father of Selima,  
 “ and employed all the arts I was  
 “ master of in order to ingratiate my-  
 “ self with him, in which I succeeded  
 “ so well, that having after a sufficient  
 “ acquaintance with him disclosed my  
 “ wishes with respect to Selima, he  
 “ consented to gratify my desires, pro-  
 “ vided the match was agreeable  
 “ to his daughter and approved by my

“ own

“ own father. As I enjoyed the hap-  
 “ piness of seeing my charming mistress  
 “ frequently after this declaration  
 “ I had made of my intentions, I had  
 “ the good fortune to render myself  
 “ so agreeable to her, that an indissoluble  
 “ union of our interests was the  
 “ object of our mutual and earnest  
 “ desires. The only thing wanting to  
 “ complete our felicity was the ap-  
 “ probation and concurrence of my  
 “ father, which I solicited with all the  
 “ eloquence and address I was master  
 “ of, and which, as the match was no  
 “ way discreditable, and was so pas-  
 “ sionately desired on my part, I did  
 “ not much doubt of obtaining—Hav-  
 “ ing charged the messenger whom I  
 “ sent with a letter to my father, re-  
 “ questing his consent, to my union  
 “ with Selima, to make all possible  
 “ dispatch

“ dispatch on his journey, I spent the in-  
“ termediate time in those innocent en-  
“ deavours, and in those delightful re-  
“ ciprocations of love and tenderness  
“ which are the result of a mutual  
“ passion, and which by heightening  
“ our desires of being inseparably uni-  
“ ted to each other, rendered us im-  
“ patient of the least obstruction to  
“ the accomplishment of our wishes.  
“ At last the messenger returned with  
“ an answer to the letter I had written  
“ to my father, conceived in as favour-  
“ able a stile as I could have wished,  
“ intimating, that though he had pro-  
“ jected an union betwixt me and  
“ the lady he had mentioned before  
“ my setting out on my travels, yet  
“ he had always resolved not to interfere  
“ with my own inclinations in a matter  
“ of so much importance to my hap-  
“ piness.