

the hope that instinct would lead them towards water. Their general direction appeared to be south and east towards distant hills. In time they came in under the shadow of these hills, and about sundown found themselves in a strange valley where the wind indulged in antics among the rocks, causing mysterious whisperings to waft about as the drooping travellers penetrated the dry watercourse.

A sudden cry from the Nubian startled Professor Caron out of the stupor into which he had slumped, and he found Kellani pointing excitedly to sheep-tracks. It was the first sight they had had of any sign of human beings; for where sheep were would be at least a solitary and ragged Bedouin—and water somewhere near! Even the camels, ordinarily impervious to hastening influences, seemed to arouse themselves to the excitement of the moment and followed the sheep-tracks willingly.

Then, without warning of any kind, a sharp command to halt rang out, and in the wink of an eye the two camels were surrounded by a band of swarthy and rough-looking Arabs, brandishing guns. They seemed to rise from the very ground. It was evident to Professor Caron that the ambushade had been planned deliberately, and that from the moment the travellers had entered the valley they had been watched. Forbidding as these men were, and threatening though their attitude seemed to be, both the Professor and his servant welcomed the capture; for they were exhausted, and their tongues were swollen with thirst. Any relief was better than none.

They were led triumphantly into camp. When they had been given water to drink, and had recovered sufficiently to take stock of their surroundings and their