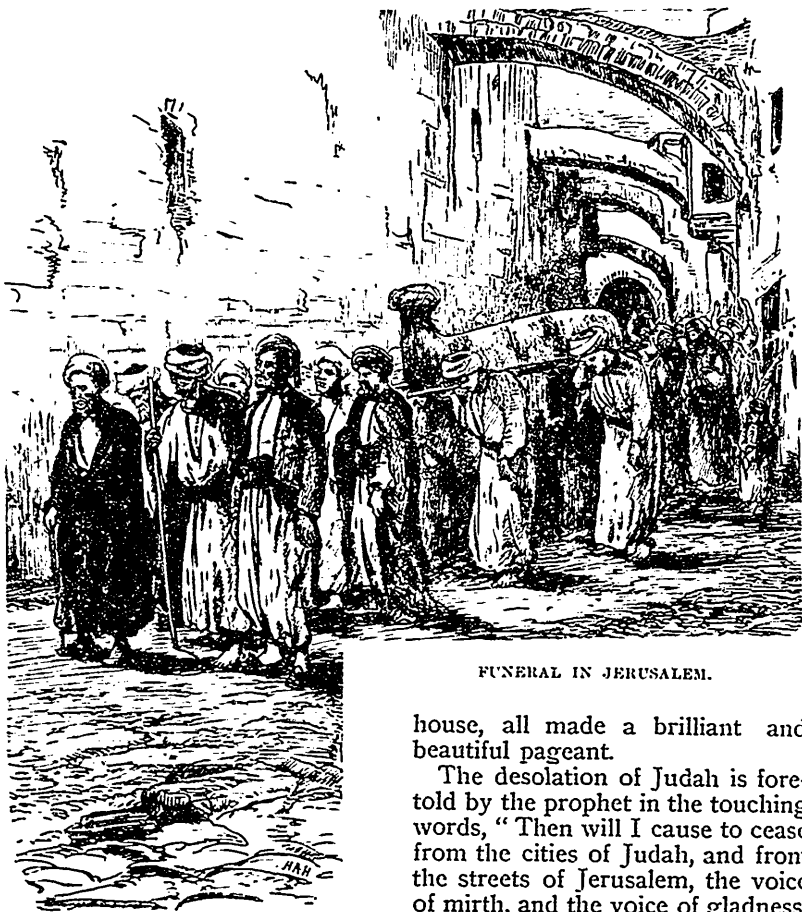


The marriage ceremony as above described is that which takes place among the modern Moslems, in which no religious rite is observed beyond the bridegroom going to the mosque to give thanks. The utterance of the single sentence, "I give myself up to thee," by the

glare of the torches, the splendour of the costumes, the throbbing of the drums and shrilling of the fifes and flageolets, the chanting of the marriage song and the joyous shouts of the "children of the bridechamber," the illumination of the bridegroom's



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bride constitutes her a legal wife. Among the various Christian sects the sanctions of religion are given according to the rites of their several Churches.

One of our earliest experiences in Cairo was encountering such a marriage procession. The

house, all made a brilliant and beautiful pageant.

The desolation of Judah is foretold by the prophet in the touching words, "Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride : for the land shall be desolate." (Jer. vii. 34.)

There is as little difference between the funeral rites of the ancients and the moderns in the Orient as between their marriage customs. As soon as the vital