

me several nightly vigils to complete my task. At length, I happily concluded it, and having actually folded and superscribed it, was putting it into my bosom, when I was seized from behind, and turning round, beheld the sheik, who shook me violently, snatched it from me, and, worse than all, took away my writing materials. Then, taking me up in his arms, flung me violently on my mat, and retired grumbling to his own bed.

"This barbarous chief was very far from guessing the true use of the implements of which he had deprived me. Ignorant of the art of writing, he thought that the black marks I had made on the paper was a charm, to do him or his family an injury; and, carefully laying the letter and materials by, determined to wash out the writing very carefully, and make me drink it, to avert the mischief he imagined I wished to do him. This he accordingly did the following day, to my great distaste and mortification.

"He, however, gave me an opportunity of writing another letter, by desiring me to write a charm to wear round his neck, to prevent the assaults of the devil, of whom he was, with very good reason, much afraid. I took as much time about this charm as I possibly could, taking care to write two letters to the consul at the same time, one of

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