

teracting the malice of the scorpion by the hand of purity. So Noorna prospered; but Shibli Bagarag drooped in uncertainty of her state, and was as a reaper in a field of harvest, around whom lie the yellow sheaves, and the brown beam of autumn on his head, the blaze of plenty; yet is he joyless and stands musing, for one is away who should be there, and without whom the goblet of Success giveth an unsweetened draught, and there is nothing pleasant in life, and the flower on the summit of achievement is blighted. At last, as he was listlessly dispensing justice in the Great Hall, seven days after the mastery of the Event, lo, Noorna in air, borne by Gulrevaz! she fair and fresh in the revival of health and beauty, and the light of constant love. Of her entry into the Great Hall, to the embrace of her betrothed, the poet exclaims, picturing her in a rapture:

Her march is music, and my soul obeys
 Each motion, as a lute to cunning fingers:
 I see the earth throb for her as she sways
 Wave-like in air, and like a great flower lingers
 Heavily over all, as loath to leave
 What loves her so, and for her loss would grieve.

But oh, what other hand than heaven's can paint
 Her eyes, and that black bow from which their lightning
 Pierces afar! long lustrous eyes, that faint
 In languor, or with stormy passion brightening:
 Within them world in world lights up from sleep,
 And gives a glimpse of the eternal deep.

Sigh round her, odorous winds; and, envious rose,
 So vainly envious, with such blushes gifted,
 Bow to her; die, strangled with jealous throes,
 O Bulbul! when she sings with brow uplifted;
 Gather her, happy youth, and for thy gain
 Thank Him who could such loveliness ordain.

Surely the Master of the Event advanced to her in the glory of a Sultan, and seated her beside him in majesty, and their contract of marriage was read aloud in the Hall, and witnessed, and sealed: joyful was he! Then commenced that festival which lasted forty days, and is termed the Festival of the honours of hospitality to the Sons of Akkis, wherein the head-cook of the palace, Uruish, performed wonders in his science, and menaced the renown of