

XXXII

THE SAIYID

THE respite gained by Galt's dramatic announcement was not long lived. The sheikh, rising in wrath in his stirrups, called on all Muslimin to hear him. The daughter of Musa was a Muslim; the hakim was an Infidel. Did not the Koran forbid the mating of a True Believer with an Unbeliever? The hakim had poisoned the mind of the girl with the idolatries of the Nasrani, who worships false Gods. Would the followers of the True Prophet submit to this sacrilege? And again the fickle crowd, their fanaticism fanned into flame, began to cry out against the Infidel. The clouds again looked threatening.

Uyuni listened with a sinking heart. It was not that she felt it wrong, despite the Koran's teaching, to become the bride of a Nasrani. She would willingly have followed the great hakim to the end of the earth. But now she saw more clearly than ever the great gulf between them, unbridgeable, deep as the Pit.

"Thou canst not marry an Arab, effendi," she said in a low voice, drawing back from his arms.