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away, his hunger was great. In

ination, and recommenced his in-

insensible, were first blindfolded.

the right start.

tor, Peer-less Brooder and our no-

did they lack for food, since game being so plentiful, it was only necessary for Alan to walk a few hundred yards hunger, for here if fish existed they and shoot a fat eland or hartebeest, or refused to be caught, and naught reother buck which in its ignorance mained for them to fill themselves with they did not interfere.

Having their daily fill of meat which is loved, the Ogula oarsmen rethat soon they would be obliged to do side and, as he understood, by impasso, or die, since in the parts there sable mountains upon the other.

Were now few and the same and the same as this upon the one wet mask on his master's head, tied the tongs, and led, or rather carried, Alan to the prow of the canoe, where them, "dog should not eat dog," or the and replied:

great deal in what he said, which on kittens left, so to speak; but think his return he would lay before his there plenty more up there," and he head men. Indeed Alan, to his astonishment, discovered that Jeeki had been which seemed to be spreading over quite right when he alleged that these them, its black edges visible even men, so terrible in their mode of life, through the gloom. were yet "kind and gentle at heart." They preyed upon mankind because for centuries it had been their custom so to do, but if anyone had been there to show them a better way, he grew sure that they would follow it gladly.
"Never wonder." At least they were brave and loyal, and even after their first fear of the wonder not be born, too much worder wonder not be born, too much worder not be born, t promises without a murmur. Once, in-deed, when he chanced to have gone for a walk unarmed and to be charged bull elephant, these Ogula ran at the brute with their spears and drove lost his life, for the "rogue" caught and killed him

So the days went on, while they pad- out all right somehow, as from dwarf. died leisurely up the river, Alan employing the time by taking lessons in even that black chap up there. Oh. my the Asiki tongue from Jeeki, a language which he had been studying ever since he left England. The task was not easy, as he had no books, and Jeeki ment of "forces of Nature" which as ment of "forces of Nature" which as himself after some thirty years of abwas doubtful as to many of its details. Still, being a linguist by nature and education, and finding in the tonto acres of flame; it was as though the
to acres of flame; it was as though the
ing felt that there was something over lects which he knew, he was able to speak it a little, if in a halting fashion.

The wards of the water within the water with On the fifth day of their ascent of the they came to a tributary that flowed into it from the north, up which the Ogula said they must proceed to reach Asikiland. This stream was narrow and sluggish, widening out here and there into great swamps through which it was not easy to find a channel. Also it was so unhealthy that even several of the Ogula contracted fever, of which Alan cured them by heavy doses of quinine, for fortunately his travelling medicine chest remained to him. These cures were effected after there chief hed suggested that they flowed into it from the north, up which there chief had suggested that they should be thrown overboard, or left to die in the swamp as useless, with the result that the white man's magical powers were henceforth established be-

very trying, since in this wet season often they could find no place on which to sleep at night, but must stay in the came tormented by mosquitoes, and in constant danger of being upset by the hippopotami that lived there. More-lived that he proposed to float. He thought they were obliged to live on these beasts, fish when they could catch them, and wildfowl, which sometimes they were unable to cook for lack of Bonsa on her head as a bonnet. Then fuel. This did not trouble the Ogula, she departed in flame, leaving him and who ate them raw, as did Jeeki when he was hungry. But mian was obliged Alan woke. Above the sun shone to starve until they could make a fire. This it was only possible to do when they found drift or other wood, since at rising beyond it in the distance he saw rising beyond it. that season the rank vegetation was in storms which broke continually, and in a few minutes half filled their canoe soil on which they grew sodden with

and crocodile. Human should rememand wait till winter comes in due

This remark he made to Alan during the progress of a particularly fearful est. The lightning blazed in the black sky and seemed to strike all about them like stabbing swords of fire, the thunder crashed and bellowed as it might be supposed to do on that day when the great earth, worn out at last, shall reel and stagger to its out at last, shall reel and stagger to its then he lifted up his great musical them to the great musical them to the great musical them to the great musical them to great a straight and black sky and seemed to strike all The rain fell in a straight and solid sheet; the tall reeds waved confusedly like millions of dim arms, and while they waved uttered a vast and groaning noise; the sacred wildfowl in the same and the waved was that of the Asiki people. solid sheet; the tall reeds waved contheir terror, with screams and the sough of wings, rushed past them in flocks a thousand strong, now seen and now lost in the vapors. To keep their canoe affoat the poor naked Ogula oarsmen, shivering with colld and fear, baled furiously with hands, or bowls of hollowed wood, and called back to Alan to save them as though he were his face was hollow, still he beamed. master of the elements. Even Jeeki was depressed and appeared to be offering up petitions, though whether these were directed to Little Bonsa or Pulse, too, strong, though temperature elsewhere it was impossible to know. As for Alan, the heart was out of him. It is true that so far he had escaped fever or other sickness, which in itself was wonderful, but he was chilled through and through, and practically had eaten nothing for two days, and very little for a week, since hi nach turned from the half-cooked hippopotamus fat and wildfowl. More over, they had lost the channel and seemed to be wandering aimlessly through a wilderness of reeds broken here and there by lines of deeper water. According to the Ogula they should have reached the confines of the great like cold, like dormouse. But never tain tops, Ma-a-jor. Can't come out to lake several days before, and landed on mind canibal pig. They serve out turn. bring you chop because too i-l-nfra self with a gasp. "So it is not a dream the healthy rising ground that was part if they live, live; if they die, die, and dig, for now I also biggish bug, the or a lie! of the Asiki territory. But this had not God ha' mercy on souls, if cannibal little bird what sit upon the rose, as appened, and now he doubted whether have soul. Ah! here we are," and from poet sa-a-ys. I tell these Johnnies it ever would happen. It was more like- beneath six inches of water dragged bring you grub which you eat withly that they would come to their deaths up the tin box containing Little Bonsa, out qualm, for Asiki Al coo-o-ok." few ball and shot cartridges which they but injured. had saved in their flight were now exhausted. Not one was left; nothing was at once and come sit in prow of canoe. left except their revolvers with a few Must reach Asiki-land in proper style. charges, which, of course, were quite Priests think it your reverend uncle and kneeling women thrust through huge, water-hollowed kloof. They crossed with Guy Fawkes. Do you

useless for the kiling of game. There- come back again, just as he leave fore they were in a fair way to die of Make very good impression. would allow him to approach quite close. except water slugs and snails, which replied imploringly. "One kick more

Jeeki was right, he should have remained in an excellent mood; indeed, only they had such magic tubes wherewith to slaughter game, he and his tribe undertaken such an expedition in the wish had such magic tubes wherewith to slaughter game, he and his tribe undertaken such an expedition in the wish was an expe would glady give up cannibalism ex-cept on feast days. He added sadly such a marsh as this upon the one wet mask on his master's head, tied

were now few people left to eat, and they hated vegetables. Moreover, they hated vegetables, Moreover, they kept no cattle, it was not the custom of that tribe, except a very few milk. Alan the condensation of the water, which was now up to that tribe, except a very few milk. Alan their knees. Alan asked Jeeki if he advised them to increase their herds, thought it was over, but that worthy take to the growing of corn, and leave shook his head mournfully, causing the shore a number of men and women spray to fly as from a twirling mop,

"Can't say, cats and dogs not tumble The chief answered that there was a so many for present, only pups and

"Bad business, I am afraid, Jeeki. Shouldn't have brought you here, or those poor beggars either," and looked at the scared, frozen Ogula.

"Never wonder. Major," broke about everywhere. Can't understand nothing so give it up. Say, 'Right O! and devil take hindermost!' Very good motto for biped tight place. Better drown here than in City bucket-shop. But no drown. Should be dead long ago, but Little Bonsa play the game, she not want to sink in stinking swamp when so near her happy home.

even that black chap up there. Oh, my tonished even him. Instead of a silver lining the "black chap" exhibited one ten yards of their cance, causing the toatmen to throw themselves upon their faces through shock or terror. Then came the hurricane, which, fortunate-the man in the iron mask?" spoke, for hope was abandoned, and if they had, their voices could not have powers were henceforth established been heard. The last thing that Alan yond doubt or cavil. Indeed, the poor Ogula now looked on him as a god superfor even to Liftle Bonsa, whose familiar he was supposed to be.

been heard. The last thing that Alan remembered was feeling Jeeki dragging a grass mat over him to protect him a little if he could. Then his senses wavefamiliar he was supposed to be. he was back in what Jeeki had rudely across the telephone wire, up which that he proposed to float. He thought

Alan woke. Above the sun shon which they travelled had hid the sigh of them. He looked behind him, and there in a heap lay the Ougla around "This time of year only fit for duck their chief, insensible or sleeping. He counted them and found that two were ber uncontrollable forces of Nature gone, lost in the tempest, how or where ward, and saw a peculiar sight, for in the prow of the drifting canoe stood Jeeki, clad in the remains of his white robe, and wearing on his head the battered helmet and about his shoulders the torn fragments of green mosqui voice and sang as though in answer

A pause and a confused murmuring and now again the wild song rose and again Jeeki answered.

"What the deuce are you Where are we?" asked Alan faintly. Jeeki turned and beamed upon hir although his teeth were chattering and "You awake. Major?" he said "Thought good old sun do trick. Fee your heart just now and find it beat not normal. Well, good news this mornago. Asiki never change, which good business when you have been away

long while." "Hang the Asiki," said Alan feebly "I think all these poor beggars are dead," and he pointed to the rowers. "Look like it, Major, but what that matter now since you and I alive? Plenty more where they come from Not dead though, think only sleep, no the marsh, especially as the from which he extracted the fetish, wet

"Put her on now, Major. Put her on some confusion.

"I can't," said Alan feebly. played out, Jeeki."

"Oh! buck up, Major, buck up!" he

Elephants, rhinoceros and buffalo were the boatmen were already gathering and you win race, mustn't spoil ship also common, while great herds of gi- and crunching up in their great teeth. for ha'porth of tar. You just wear raffe might be seen wandering between Or perhaps the Ogula, forgetting fetish, whistle once on land, and then the scattered trees, but as they were friendship under the pressure of neces- go to sleep for whole week if you like. not upon a hunting trip and their ammunition was very limited with these and revert to their usual diet.

I do rest, say it all magic, and so forth—that you been dead and just come -that you been dead and just come out of grave, or anything you like. No membered "uncontrollable forces of Nature." Only a madman would have bill, and God bless hurricane that blew

The mist cleared away, rolling up shore a number of men and women clad in white robes, who were marshalled there in ranks chanting and staring out at the dim waters of the lagoon. There upon the waters, driven forward by the gentle breeze, floated a canoe and lo! in the prow of that canoe sat a white man and on his head the god which they had lost a whole genera-. On the head of a white man it returned. They saw and fell upon their knees.

"Blow! Major, blow!" whispered took to be chicken or guineafowl, and Jeeki, and Alan blew a feeble note through the whistle in the mouth of flavored with some essence. This cup he mask. It was enough, they knew interested him very much, both on ac-shivered a little when he thought of go either." go. Alan thought it was to the effect ness fell upon him.

CHAPTER XI.

Bonza-Town, When consciousness returned to Alan the first thing of which he became aware was the slow, swaving motion

"That confounded Little Bonsa," he

"Little Bonsa's undress uniform, I expect," he muttered, and tried to drag ing gale, and all about and around them this wall of darkness. No one possible, for it was fitted tightly to his head, and laced or fastened at the

> soft wool or hair, so arranged that he could either, sit up or lie down. He peeped between two of these mats and saw that they were travelling in a countenance of an individual so may slowly as he could, for somehow he was sacrilege of the worst sort. Indeed shrank from the quaint, carved portal assured him that the priests who had put on the headdress when he was him with reluctance. The women drew en road or trail, and that his litter was borne upon the shoulders of a since the prospect of living in a linen their shoulders pressed him from bedouble line of white-robed men, while mask for an indefinite period was not dlers for they were arranged in com-and their chief Fahni.
>
> Jeeki, still wearing his sun helmet with panies, and carried large shields and "Not de-ad," intoned Jeeki in reply, entrived that its occupant could see sa was, and was answered that he himithout being seen, and perceived that self as its lawful guardian, was sitting his escort amounted to a veritable on the fetish in its tin box, tidings that army of splendid looking, but sombre he was able to verify by groping befaced savages of a somewhat Semitic neath the cushions. cast of countenance. Indeed, many of

lish to a melody which Alan at once recognized as a Georgian tune, apparently from the second litter.

"Oh, Major," he sang," have you yet awoke from refre-e-shing sleep? If so, please answer me in the same tone of oice, for remember that you de--vil of a swell, Lord of the Little Bonsa, and ust not speak like co-o-mon cad,"

Feeble as he was, Alan nearly burst laughing, then, remembering that obably he was not expected to laugh, built huts with verandahs, neatly arcm, effect to the evident awe and delight of all the escort within hearing.

Instantly Jeeki's deep voice rose in litation could be discovered, was a large this confounded mask, Jeeki." "That good tidings upon the moun-

The Visitant. The details at that distance he could Then followed loud orders issued by not discover, nor did he try to do so, Jeeki to his immediate entourage, and for the general glory of the scene held lips were painted red and round, the him, and lay down on one of the couchhim in its grip. At this evening hour eye-holes were black lines. was halted, the curtains were opened, setting sun poured straight up the starting back, "I look like a devil Jeeki?" he asked.

CHAPTER XII.

ing it and the clouds of mist that hung above, to a hundred glorious hues; inabove, to a hundred glorious hues; indeed, the substance of the foaming waters seemed to be interlaced with rainbows whereof the arch reached their crest and the feet were lost in the sullen blackness of the pool be- "They neath. Beautiful, too, was the valley, glowing in the quiet light of evening.

You see, Major, they not believe uncle opened his eyes, to see that they were and glorified, looked like some happy home of peace.

brough the gloom. But still the light, | youth!" which it seemed to gather to itself, gleamed upon that golden roof amid wrapped up in leaves, were the dis-

it. They sprung into the water and count of its shape and workmanship, her; it was as though her influence which, if rude, were striking in de-Alan on the shore and worshipped him.

They half up a lad as though for sacrifice, for a priest flourished a great graves. Also it proved to him that litter was holder up a lad as though for sacrifice, for a priest flourished a great graves. Also it proved to him that litter was holder up. Were over him already. Next moment he forgot her for a while, for they had come to the river brink and the "Cheer up, Major," said Jeeki symrifice, for a priest flourished a great knife about his head, but Jeeki said Jeeki's stories of the abundance of the omething that caused them to let him precious metal among the Asiki had not been exaggerated. If it were not that Little Bonsa had changed her very plantiful that would see a wall defended both by Nathat Little Bonsa had changed her habits across the Black Water, and wanted no blood, only food. Then Alan gold. Evidently there was wealth in wanted no blood, only food. Then Alan remembered no more; again the dark-After the food had been handed to up a broad street where hundreds of the litter went on again, and broad street where hundreds of the litter went seated upon his cushions, he ate and not seem to speak, or if they spoke drank heartily enough, for now that their voices were lost in the sound of the worst of his fatigue had passed the thunder of the great cataract that some dominated the place with its sullen, absurd fashion this meal reminded him continuous roar. It took Alan days here come dinner. You sit on stool and of that which a traveller makes out of to become accustomed to that roar, but look hely. luncheon basket upon a railway line by the inhabitants of Asiki-land apthere were no paper napkins, no salt and mustard, and no three-and-sixpence known from the beginning.

pay. Further, until he got used to Presently they were through the town movable mouth was not easy. This difficulty he overcame at last by proping the imitation lips apart with a place of hope after which thinks were the except the place of hope after which thinks were When he had finished he threw the beneath the mighty trees from whose platter and the remains out of the lit- limbs hung long festoons of moss, It er, retaining the cup for further ex- was very dark there, only in places where a bough was broken the moon-To set it out at length would be wearisome, but in the course of an hour or so he collected a good deal of information. Thus he learned that they appeared clad in white robes, veiled his head, and laced or fastened at the back of his neck so securely that he could not undo it. Being still weak, soon he gave up the attempt and began to look about him.

He was in a litter, a very fine litter hung round with beautifully woven and colored grass mats, inside of which were a kind of couch and cushions of

countenance of an individual so mys- Alan descended from the litter as him with reluctance. The women drew him on, their hands pulled at his arms, This news depressed Alan very much,

"Very odd," echoed Alan. "Could you persuade these ladies to let go of me?" I
"Don't know," answered Jeeki.
"Spect they your wives; 'spect you have lots of wives here; don't get

divided itself into two rushing branches that enclosed an ellipse of ground, surrounded on all sides by water, for on its Veiled women with torches before and westernmost extremity the branches behind, Jeeki stalking ahead carrying the battered tin box, long passages one river, divided once more and wound away quietly to north and south further than the eye can reach. On the island thus formed, which may have been three miles long by two in breadth stood thousands of straw-roofed, square wooden stools inlaid with ivory, vessels of water, great basins made of

On the hither side of the pool was Jeeki set down the tin box upon the "Tarn awake, most excellent Jee-ee-ki and feel the need of food, if you have such a thing abou-ou--out you, and it is lawful for the Lord of Little Bonsa to take nu-tri-ment."

what looked like a park, for here grew great, black trees, which from their crowd of women and said, "Bring flat shape Alan took to be some variet, of cedar, and standing alone in the midst of this park, where no other hab-"I am awake, most excellent Jee-ee-ki what looked like a park, for here grew altar-like stone, then he turned to the and feel the need of food, if you have great, black trees, which from their crowd of women and said, "Bring

low building with dark colored walls "Mustn't, Major, must'nt. Priests tell the mask on his master's head. nd gabled roofs that flashed like fire.
"The Gold House," said Alan to him"The Gold House," said Alan to himand gabled roofs that flashed like fire. they gone after supper, then take it off. No one allowed to see you without mask except Asika herself.'

> tion. The mask was gilded; the sham which apparently had been provided for "Why! it is horrible," he exclaimed.

struck upon the face of the fall, stain- | mean to tell me that I have got to live | no match. Not fond of dark in Gold

"They think you your revened uncle perhaps because it was the last. He and even the native town thus gilded run away with Little Bonsa; they be- no longer alone in the room. The oil lieve Little Bonsa run away with uncle just for change of air and so on, some of them were out, but by the light The sun was sinking rapidly, and be-fore the litter reached the foot of the strange land, she bring him back again. figure which seemed to appear at the hill and began to cross the rich valley. That why you so holy, favorite of Little edge of the surrounding darkness, a all the glory had departed and only Bonsa, who live with you all this time woman's figure. It walked forward to the catarat showed white and ghostlike and keep you just same age, bloom of the altar stone upon which lay the tin

"In heaven's name," asked Alan exasperated, "what is Little Bonsa, bethe cedar trees; then the moon rose and the gold was turned to silver. Alan

'Hush!" said Jeeki, "mustn't call her Alan. For a while the figure gazed at lay back upon his cushions full of wonder, almost of awe. It was a marvelBonsa much more than fetish. Little
to his bed, and bent down as though to lous thing that he should have lived to Bonsa alive, or so," he added doubt- study him. Out of the corners of his reach this secret place hidden in the fully, "these silly niggers say. She wife eyes he peered up at it pretending all heart of Africa and defended by of Big Bonsa who you see to-morrow, the while to be fast asleep. swamps, mountains, and savages to perhaps. But their story this, that she in gold-spangled, veil-like garments white man had ever penetrated. And with white Medicine man, who dare with round bosses shaped to her breast, to think of it! That white man, his preach she nothing but heathen idol. own uncle, had never even held it She want show him whether or no she hioned like the scales of a fish, which worth while to make public any ac- only idol. That the yarn, priests tell it showed off the extraordinary elegance unt of its wonders, which apparent- me to-day. They always sure Little of her lithe form. The low lamp light had seemed to him of no import- Bonsa come back. They always watch shone upon her face and the coronet of nce. Or perhaps he thought that if for her there by edge of lake. Not at gold set upon her dark hair. What tion gone. On the head of a white man it had departed; on the head of a them platters of wood, upon which, there they were before and about him, you always holy; and I holy also, had he seen its like for evil loveliness. and now the question was-What thank goodness, because she take me The great, languid, oblong eyes, the membered limbs of a bird which he would be his fate in this Gold House, too as servant. Therefore we sleep in the rich red lips bent like a bow, the cruel took to be chicken or guineafowl, and where the great fetish dwelt with its peace, for they not cut our throats, at smile of the mouth, the broad foreany rate at present though I think." Ah! that priestess! Somehow he he added mournfully, "they not let us

Alan sat down on a stool and groan-

now, and I darsay they give you all the a copper colored wife, the exact picgold you want."

"What's the good of gold unless one upon his sleeping senses. an get away with it? What's the good of anything if we are prisoners among "Perhaps time show, Major. Hush! again to let the light fall upon some

The door opened and through it apn Europe or America. Only there the parently it was not noticed; their ears cups are of gold, and among the Asiki and voices were attuned to overcome dishes, and cups full of drink, fashioned of gold like that which had been given to Alan in the litter. He noticed bara had given him-once it had been pay. Further, until he got used to Presently they were through the town at once that they had removed their luncheon in a linen mask with a and a wooden gate in an inner wall veils and outer garments, if indeed they were the same women, and now, like many otherricans, were but the imitation lips apart with a control of bone, after which things were to be or lests. On they stole like ghosts that hung over their shoulders, short that hung over their shoulders, short that hung over their shoulders, short own finger another ring fashioned of two snakes curiously intertwined of and sandals. Such was their attire, which, scanty as it might be, was yet becoming enough and extremely rich. Thus the cape was fastened with a brooch of worked gold, so were the sandal straps, while the petticoat was adorned with beads of gold that jingled as they walked, and amongst them strings of other beads of various and beautiful colors, that might be glass or might be precious stones. Moreover, these women were young and hand some, having splendid figures and wellcut features, soft, dark eyes and rather long hair worn in the formal and at tractive fashion that has been describ-

Advancing to Alan, two of the knelt before him, holding out the travs upon which was the food. So they remained while he ate, like bronze statues, nor would they consent to change their posture even when told them in their own language to be pleased to go away. On hearing themdouble line of white-roped men, white mask for an indefinite period was not cheerful. Recovering, he chanted a other men. These seemed to be solution as to the fate of the Ogula crew little was the other little arrive, and out of it emerge changed a little, but go they would not. The result was that Alan grew selves address in the Asiki tongue, they seemed surprised, for their faces changed a little, but go they would Jeeki, still wearing his sun helmet with extremely nervous and ate and drank spears. Also some of them wore torques and bracelets of yellow metal that might be either brass or gold. Turning himself about, he found an eyellole in the back of the litter, so contrived that its occupant could see "Here we are, Major," he said in his cheerful voice "turned up all riches before Jeeki, to whom the women did thing, including the dishes that had "Funny place, Gold House. I tell you been given to Jee'l, and in spite of that yesterday, Major. People come up remonstrances carried them out of the

After this his voice gave out, though white man every day so make most of gobble chop so fast you go ill inside. cast of countenance. Indeed, many of them had aquiline features and hair that, although crisped, was long and carefully arranged in something like the old Egyptian fashion. Also, he saw that about thirty yards behind, and separated from him by a bodynguard, was borne a second litter. By means of a similar aperture in front, he discovered yet more soldiers, and tables, especially when they stare at sort of nightshirt with little stars all

white-robed men and women bearing strange emblems and banners. These he took to be priests and priestesses.

Having examined everything that was within reach of his eye, Alan sank back upon his cushions and began to realize litat he was very faint and hungry. It was just then that the sound of a familiar voice reached his ears. It was the voice of Jeekl, and he did not speak, he chanted in Eng-

with the women, and as they treated not always like her husband, and then his remarks with lofty disdain, at last she make him sit up, poor devil, and he seized first one and then the other by die double quick. Great honor to be the elbows and literally ran them out of the room. "There!" he said, "baggage gone

since you make such fuss about it hough I 'spect they try give me beans for this job" (here he spoke not in figurative English slang, but of the Calabar bean, which is a favorite native poison). "Well, dinner gone, and girls gone, and we tired, so best go to bed. Think we all private here now, though in Gold House never can be sure," and he looked round him suspiciously, adding, "rummy place, Gold House, full of all sorts of holes made by old fellows housand years ago, which no one know but Bonsa priests. Still, best risk it and take off your face so that, you have decent wash." and he began to unlace Never has a city clerk dressed up for

knight been more glad to get rid of his costume than was Alan of that hateful head-dress. At length it was gone with Alan stepped to one of the wooden his other garments and the much-needbowls full of water which stood under ed wash accomplished, after which he lamp, and gazed at his own reflec- clothed himself in a kind of linen gown es, placing his revolver by his side "Will those lamps burn all night, did not dare to leave behind, "and let

"Hope so, Major, as we haven't got

House," answered Jeeki sleepily. Then

"Who do the Asiki think I am, then, sorts of dreams came to him, one of which he remembered on awakening box containing Litle Bonsa, and after

noise which, in his dream, finally awoke MEN WANTED lowcards in al experience require lars. Wm. R. W don, Ont., Canada It was a woman, wonderfully clad

covered with thin plates of gold fashead on which the hair grew low, the delicately arched eyebrows and the long curving lashes of the heavy beneath them, the rounded cheeks smooth as a ripe fruit, the firm, shapely chin, and snake-like poise of the read, the long bending neck and the

ture of that lady had projected itself She seemed to study him very earnestly, with a kind of passionate eager

ness indeed moving a little now and part that was in shadow. Once even she stretched out her rounded arm and just lifted the edge of the blanket so chanced on the little finger of this hand Alan wore a plain gold ring which Barher grandfather's signet. The ring, which had a coat of arms cut upon its bezel, seemed to interest her sleep he scarcely felt it, slipped it on to his finger above Barbara's ring.

After this she seemed to vanish away and Alan slept soundly until the i ing, when he awoke to find the light of the sun pouring into the re hrough the high-set latticed windowplaces.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Asika. Alan rose and stretched himself, and hearing him, Jeeki, who had a dog's what seemed to be the deepest sleep. "You rest well, Major? No dream,

ch?" he asked curiously "Not very," answered Alan, "and I had a dream, of a woman who stood over me and vanished away, as dreams

"Ah!" said Jeeki. "But where you find that new ring on finger, Major Alan stared at his hand and started for there, set on it, above that of Barbara's, was a little circlet formed of twisted snakes which he had seen in his sleep. "Then it must have been true," he

said in a low and rather frightened

through hole, like rats. sure you alone in Gold House. But what this lady like? Alan described his visitor to the best of his ability "Ah!" said Jeeki, "pretty girl. Big

eyes, gold crown, gold stays which fit tight on front, very nice and decent; over-by Jingo! I think that Asika herself. If so-great compliment. he discovered yet more soldiers, and been climbing for beyond them, at the head of the procession, what appeared to be a body of the wife robed men and women bearing strange emblems and banners. These

down, other come on, you see. But she Asika's husband, but soon all finished. P'r'aps-" then he checked himself, and suggested that Alan should have a bath while he cleaned his clothes, an attention that they needed.

Scarcely had Alan finished his toilet, and donned the Arab-looking linen robe over his own fragmentary flannels, and above it the hateful mask which Jeeki nsisted he must wear, when there came a knocking on the door. Motioning to Alan to take his seat upon the stool Jeeki undid the bars, and as before omen appeared with food, and waited while they ate, which this time, having overcome his nervousness, Alan did more leisurely. Their meal done, one of the women asked Jeeki, for to his speak, whether the white lord did not to walk in the garden. Without waiting for an answer, she led him to the end of the large room, and unbar ring another door that they had not noticed, revealed a passage, beyond which appeared trees and flowers. Then she and her companions went away with the fragments of the meal.

"Come on," said Alan, taking up the box containing Little Bonsa, which he us get into the air.

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