

The "sons of Ishmael" are lively but their wit is of the sober kind. One is struck with the vein of genuine humor running through many of their sayings and especially their proverbs, but they repeat these without any outward signs of merriment. They also joke but do not laugh at a joke. It is said that in Morocco they have a strong dislike for the French chiefly because of the latter's levity. In the presence of a witty saying or an amusing circumstance the Arab stands long-faced and sober while the jocular Frenchman is convulsed with laughter. And many things that seem to others mere trivialities are to these orientals matters of gravity. If one sneezes his neighbor exclaims "God bless you," and that with the seriousness of a Puritan parson. Note the connection in which one reads of the good deeds a Moslem may claim from his Moslem brother. "He will salute him when he meets him, he will visit him when he is sick, he will follow his funeral bier when he dies, he will aid him when he calls, he will say 'God bless you' when he sneezes "

There is a unique philosophy of etiquette in this—"when one of you eats let him eat with his right hand and when he drinks let him drink with his right hand, for Satan eats with his left hand and drinks with his left hand." Even the abstemious nomad has learned that "gluttony drives away intelligence."

Here one may obtain some sound advice regarding social relations. "Associate with men as you associate with fire, take from its benefit and guard lest it burn you." He who lacks reserve may not like the appellation but the Arabs say, "It is one sign of a *fool* to sit above his proper place and to enter at a time when he is not wanted." The garrulous might profit by observing that "conversation is like medicine, if you take a little of it it is useful but if you take too much it kills." And bearing on the more practical side, "To everything there is a chief part, and the chief part of a kindness is to *do it quick*." Concerning matrimony here is a quotation taken from a translation which has been thrown into English verse :

They said marry!—I replied—
Far be it from me
To take to my bosom a sackful of snakes.
I am free, why then become a slave?
May Allah (God) never bless womankind.

Friendship is a sacred relation among the Bedouins. "Friendship is a tree and visiting its root" may not be true in the present artificial status of much American society, but the caution reflected in such expressions as "a friend is a patch in the garment, so let a man look out with whom he patches his garment" readily win approval.

Further, the Arab is no gossip. He believes in keeping secrets,