

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649447077

Giafar: A Tragedy by Andreas Bard

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

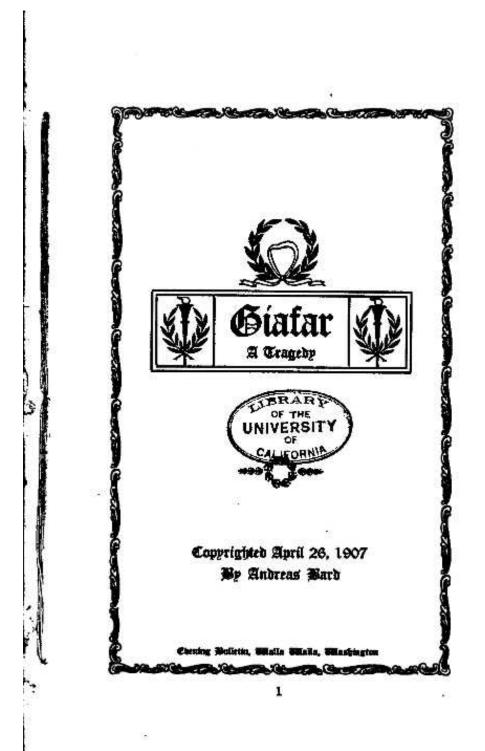
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

### **ANDREAS BARD**

# GIAFAR: A TRAGEDY

Trieste



000 0000 ale ale 190 CALL BOOK -Lica vi ŝ 100 Homo sum et nuilum humanum a me repudio -TERENCE 2

### Foreword

The tragedy of "GIAFAE" is not a creature of the imagination. It is based upon a strictly historical plot. The cruelty which Haroun Al Raschid displayed toward his Grand Vizier and the beautiful Abassa are perhaps the only stain upon the character of the otherwise noble-minded Khalif of Bagdad.

5

Stage adaptation has not been primarily considered in the writing of the play. It has been the aim of the writer to present, upon an Oriental background of years agone, the unageing problem of the conflict between soul and sense in the evolution of Love.

## Dramatis Personae

HAROUN AL RASCHID, Khalif of Bagdad.

GIAFAR, Grand Vizier.

ABASSA, the Khalif's Sister.

HASFANA, Abassa's Companion.

OMAR, Chief of Saracen Army.

YAHIA, Giafar's Father.

FADHEL, Giafar's Brother.

OBEIDAH)

KHALED Counsellors to the Khalif.

ABU NUWAS, a Court Poet.

ZULEIKA, an Old Sooth-Sayer of the Harem.

#### ----

Slaves, Eunuchs, Guards, Officers of State, Women of the Harem.

SCENE: Bagdad. TIME: Beginning of the Ninth Century.

State Str

Act I.

Contractor Contractor

SCENE-Magnificent apartments of Abassa, richly decorated with tapestry. A fountain in the center. The female train of the harem reclining on embroidered cashions on both sides of a high couch on which Abassa is seated; Hasfana at her feet holding a zither; on the other side of the couch, Zuleika. Two ennuchs stationed at the entrance of the apartment. The scene is illuminated by the crimson lights of the sunset which through a columned opening in the rear reveals the towers of Bagdad.

#### ABASSA.

Contraction of the local division of the loc

Non-Decision

- I'm tired, Hasfana, with these gilded follies!
- Our roses, hardly plucked, begin to wither:
- Our jewels cease to charm, and e'en the music

Of waters, falling in melodious rhythm,

At last grows dull. My heart, the desert pilgrim,

Finds its oasis fading as mirage.

- And as the cooling breeze that wooes at twilight
- The burning plains, will die, ere stars appear,

There's naught that lasts.

HASFANA.

Save love, my fair Abassa!

#### ABASSA.

Contraction Contraction of

Love's but a pleasing phrase, its meaning vague.

Once, when young Omar dared to raise my veil,

And sent his fiery glance into my soul, There was a flash, soon lost amid the clouds. Charles and Charles and Charles

#### HASFANA.

Why then took'st pain to keep the fatal secret

From Haroun's knowledge ?

#### ABASSA.

Little would I gain

150Ge

By making skulls to season dreams withal.

#### HASFANA.

Alas, I tremble for the life of Omar.

Should Haroun know the truth. The mighty Khalif

Is kind and generous; but where Abassa

Is lightly treated, he shows claws and teeth.

#### ABASSA.

Thou would'st not fear for Omar, were he not

Close allied to thy heart.

#### HASFANA.

Contraction Contraction

Oh, mock me not!

5

Thou art the sun of beauty, all the stars Must pay thee homage, but the humble light

That flickers in my heart burns out unnoticed.

#### ABASSA.

I pity thee, yet, though unloved, thou lovest,

Contraction of the local distribution of the

1000

Two deep emotions never known to me, And therefore envied.

#### HASFANA.

Here's a song, Abassa, That fits thy life. Two verses only: Listen.

(Singing to the accompaniment of the zither.)

The flowers, so fragrant and so fair, Soon with their bloom must part; To perfume turned, enrich the air Where thou, Beloved, art.

The dreamers who behold thy charms, In love for these have blushed, And fain would linger in thy arms— To honor these, are crushed.

ABASSA. Think'st thou of Abdul ?