

**ALLAH-AKBAR. GOD IS
GREAT, AN ARAB LEGEND
OF THE SCIENCE AND
CONQUEST OF GRANADA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649044115

Allah-Akbar. God Is Great, an Arab Legend of the Science and Conquest of Granada by
Mariana Monteiro

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

MARIANA MONTEIRO

**ALLAH-AKBAR. GOD IS
GREAT, AN ARAB LEGEND
OF THE SCIENCE AND
CONQUEST OF GRANADA**

Allab-Akbar.

GOD IS GREAT.

AN ARAB LEGEND OF THE SIEGE AND CONQUEST
OF GRANADA.

From the Spanish.

By MARIANA MONTEIRO.



LONDON

R. WASHBOURNE, 18 PATERNOSTER ROW

1878

24625. f. 1.



The Illustrated Head-pieces in this book are from
the pencil of Miss HENRIQUETA MONTEIRO, 4 Brunswick
Villas, Hill Road, N.W.



PREFACE.

GRANADA and its history has always possessed a great charm for historical readers. The poetic character of the Arabs, who for several centuries held possession of its fertile lands, has filled many a page with romantic events and records of brave deeds.

The marvellous advantages which Granada offered in its sunny climate and luxuriance of soil for founding and erecting the Alcazar of the Alhambra, with its gardens of delight, its rippling fountains, the dreamy, perfumed atmosphere of its retreats and chambers, combined with the exquisite harmony of colouring displayed by the Moors in their

wondrous architecture, has lent an absorbing interest to everything which relates to Granada.

That the Moors and Arabs were a very superior race, there are numberless vestiges yet extant to prove, in the lovely remains, broken and mutilated it is true, of many buildings in Granada, Cordova, Toledo, and in other cities and towns of Spain, which fully bears out the artistic taste and refinement which characterised them; and though but little known in England, their literature was also very beautiful, and in perfect harmony with their refined ideas.

The widespread and beautiful account of the conquest of Granada by Washington Irving, which he derived from Catholic historians, principally from the manuscript chronicles of the learned monk Fray A. Agapida, has done more than anything else to bring forward the thrilling events and deeds performed by both Christian and Moorish knights before and after the conquest.

The present legend of Allah-Akbar (God is great), in contradistinction to Washington Irving's history, is the Moorish description derived from Arab sources of the siege and loss of Granada and its lovely Alcazares; a terrible loss to them after reigning over and possessing the land for nearly eight centuries.

This legend I have translated from the Spanish, and have endeavoured to adhere faithfully to the Oriental style of description and composition, which is very peculiar, and which at times reads like a religious prose poem. Their sentiments of lofty piety (although with an ever dark tinge of fatalism which the Arabs derive from the teaching of the Koran) are very beautiful, and reveal a soul-inspiring love for the Almighty, Whom they always mention with extreme reverence, the Koran being undoubtedly in many respects a very high code of laws. Whether English critics will judge that I have adhered too closely to its Oriental manner of expression to please their taste, I know not; but my endeavour

has been to keep as near as possible to the original—a matter of no little difficulty in translating from a semi-Oriental into a Northern language—and therefore I have made no attempt to alter the style, but simply offer it as a *translation*, not a *compilation*.

MARIANA MONTEIRO.

4 BRUNSWICK VILLAS,
HILL ROAD, N.W.



CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE GENIUS OF THE ALHAMBRA	1
II. THE KING ABU-ABD-ALLAH EL ZOGOIBI ...	16
III. ZEGRIES AND ABENCHERRAJES	36
IV. THE CYPRESS OF THE SULTANA	68
V. THE CHAMBER OF LIONS	91
VI. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD	118
VII. HERNAN PEREZ DEL PULGAR	145
VIII. THE TRIUMPH OF THE AVE MARIA	160
IX. GONZALO FERNANDEZ DE CORDOVA	176
X. THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA... ..	203
XI. THE LAST ADIEU	218
. NOTES UPON ALLAH-ANBAR	219