

**THE HOUSE OF
RIMMON: A DRAMA
IN FOUR ACTS**

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The House of Rimmon: A Drama in Four Acts by Henry van Dyke

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HENRY VAN DYKE

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IN FOUR ACTS**

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RIMMON

A DRAMA IN FOUR ACTS

BY
HENRY VAN DYKE

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William Lloyd Garrison

**THE HOUSE OF
RIMMON**

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

- BENHADAD: King of Damascus.
REZON: High Priest of the House of Rimmon.
SABALLIDIN: A Noble of Damascus.
HAZAEI }
IZDUBHAR } Courtiers of Damascus.
RAKHAZ }
SHUMAKIM: The King's Fool.
ELISHA: Prophet of Israel.
NAAMAN: Captain of the Armies of Damascus.
RUAHMAH: A Captive Maid of Israel.
TSARPI: Wife to Naaman.
KHAMMA }
NUBTA } Attendants of Tsarpi.
Soldiers, Servants, Citizens, etc., etc.
SCENE: *Damascus and the Mountains of Samaria.*
TIME: 850 B. C.

ACT I

SCENE I

Night, in the garden of NAAMAN at Damascus. At the left, on a slightly raised terrace, the palace, with softly gleaming lights and music coming from the open latticed windows. The garden is full of oleanders, roses, pomegranates, abundance of crimson flowers; the air is heavy with their fragrance: a fountain at the right is splashing gently: behind it is an arbour covered with vines. Near the centre of the garden stands a small, hideous image of the god Rimmon. Back of the arbour rises the lofty square tower of the House of Rimmon, which casts a shadow from the moon across the garden. The background is a wide, hilly landscape, with a high road passing over the mountains toward the snow-clad summits of Mount Hermon in the distance. Enter by the palace door, the lady TSARPI, robed in red and gold, and followed by her maids, KHAMMA and NUBTA. She remains on the terrace: they go down into the garden, looking about, and returning to her.

KHAMMA:

There's no one here; the garden is asleep.

NUBTA:

The flowers are nodding, all the birds abed,
And nothing wakes except the watchful stars!