

**CAMARALZAMAN
: A FAIRY DRAMA**

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Camaralzaman: A Fairy Drama by G. P. R. James

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G. P. R. JAMES

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: A FAIRY DRAMA**

CAMARALZAMAN:

A Fairy Drama.

BY

G. P. R. JAMES, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF

"DARNLEY," "DE L'ORME,"

ETC. ETC.

"From the spicy shore
Of Araby the blees'd."
MILTON.

LONDON:
CHARLES OLLIER,
SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND.
1848.

PREFACE.

THE following little drama was written for pleasure, not for profit. The author might have some share of that ambition which has led so many persons to try dramatic poetry, whether qualified for the task or not; but his motive in perpetrating this literary sin was more to fill up pleasantly some vacant hours than to win renown.

There are excellent folk amongst the public who will not believe this, and who will ask, reasonably enough, "How *can* Mr. James have vacant hours when he writes so much? Has he not published this very year, &c. &c. &c.?"

Nevertheless, such is the case, I do assure the gentlemen; and, except when driven by dire

necessity—when some publisher's rod is lying heavy on my shoulders, or an action for breach of contract looms like a thunder-cloud on the horizon, I *have* some leisure time in the day. Not that I mean to say there is exact verity in a wonderfully amusing account of my habits, published some years ago in France, where the author declares: "*l'après-midi il se livre aux plaisirs de la chasse avec ses amis*;" for I certainly neither hunt nor shoot every day of the year: I wish I could. I certainly do sometimes take a gun in my hand, and sometimes, to use our fine vernacular, "get on the *outside* of my horse," (I have never heard of any one since Agamemnon's days who has tried the *inside*); but still there are times and seasons when the law prevents our seeking field-sports, and the weather gives us a hint to stay at home. It was at such moments, in the Spring of last year, that the following pages were written, when I found that playing at chess bored me—especially when I was beaten—and when the *cacoethes scribendi*, which has become chronic, was

strong upon me. That which amused my leisure hours then, may now amuse the leisure hours of a few others, and this is all the author expects or can gain from the work.

As to the drama, or poem, or whatever it ought to be called, very few words will suffice. It is founded upon a well-known tale in the "Arabian Nights," a good deal altered, it is true; but still the story is materially the same. Thus I give up all claim to invention. In the original tale much use is made of a certain geni called Danasch, and his assistance could not be dispensed with in the drama. Now, an evil geni I imagine to be neither more nor less than a devil; but unfortunately, in the original he is a very tame devil indeed. I have therefore remodelled him entirely, and made my own devil of him. Milton, Byron, and Göthe have had *their* devil, and I do not see why I—humble as I am—should not have mine. Nevertheless, I beg that no one will attribute to me the sentiments or thoughts put into his mouth; for though I have called him *my* devil, people

might just as well attribute to me the opinions of *my* horse, which, I am sorry to say, are sometimes very different from my own.

To speak seriously, however, I have here endeavoured to give one view of that many-sided and mysterious power of evil which is always so busy with the human heart; but at the same time I have not left its suggestions without, I trust, sufficient counteracting influence. Milton's Satan was more of a gentleman than a fiend: Byron's more of a philosopher. In *Danasch* I have attempted to indicate that subtle power which seems to sit in the human breast, suggesting doubts, and sneers, and levities, in opposition to conviction, conscience, and faith.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Male Mortals.

GAIOUR, *Emperor.*
SCHAHZAMAN, *King of the Isles of the Children of Khalidan.*
CAMARALZAMAN, *his Son.*
HASSAN, *Grand Vizier of the Isles of the Children of Khalidan.*
MARZAVAN, *Foster-Brother of the Princess BADOURA.*
TWO MERCHANTS.
FISHERMEN.
PEASANTS.
CITIZENS.
COURTIERS.
A BLACK SLAVE.
SLAVES OF MARZAVAN.
EXECUTIONER.

Male Spirits.

EBLIS, *King of the Revolted Spirits.*
DANASOH, *a sneering Fiend.*
A DEFORMED GENI.
GOOD AND EVIL SPIRITS.

Female Mortals.

BADOURA, *daughter of the Emperor Gaiour.*
HER NURSE.
A PEASANT GIRL, (Scene ii., Act ii.)
A PEASANT GIRL, (Scene ii., Act iii.)

Female Spirits.

MAIMOUNE, *a good Fairy.*
GOOD AND EVIL SPIRITS.

SCENE.—*The Sky—The Hall of Eblis—South Asia.*

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