

**FRANZ THIMM'S SERIES OF CLASSICAL,
EUROPEAN AND ORIENTAL GRAMMARS
AFTER AN EASY AND PRACTICAL METHOD;
PART XIII: THE ARABIC LANGUAGE; ARABIC
SELF-TAUGHT, OR, THE DRAGOMAN FOR
TRAVELLERS IN EGYPT**

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Franz Thimm's Series of Classical, European and Oriental Grammars After an Easy and Practical Method; Part XIII: The Arabic Language; Arabic Self-Taught, or, the Dragoman for Travellers in Egypt by A. Hassam

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A. HASSAM

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PART XIII
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ARABIC SELF-TAUGHT
OR THE
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BEING A NEW
PRACTICAL AND EASY METHOD
OF LEARNING THE
ARABIC LANGUAGE.

BY
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VOCABULARY—GRAMMAR—DIALOGUES
AND DICTIONARY.

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PREFACE.

The Arabic Language.

The Arabic Language is spoken in Egypt, Palestine and Syria, and is the vulgar language spoken in those districts in the East; but in all those parts, as well as in Algeria, there are differences of Dialect, which the traveller will soon trace, but any Arab will understand the pure, primitive word, when tolerably well pronounced; the traveller will do well to study with his ear the sound of words as they are uttered by the native, for it is impossible to transcribe correctly the gutturals as well as the soft aspirants of the Eastern tongue.

The written or classic Arabic, is a highly developed and most exquisitely grammatically constructed language and would require a long course of study. It belongs to the Semitic languages, which include the Hebrew, Chaldee, Syriac, Arabic and Ethiopian tongues, and it comprises also some of the idioms spoken in the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris, preserved in the Cuneiform inscriptions, which now occupy the attention of the learned linguistic world.

The Arabic language has survived all the other Semitic languages, it may be maintained that it includes them all, for it is the most exact in its maintenance of the sanctity of the root. The common household words of the modern Arabs are not only similar to, but are identical with, those of the ancient Hebrews; and it is not too much to say, that an Israelite of old and an Arab Sheykh of our own time would be mutually intelligible in the expression of simple wants.

This will be a sufficient inducement for every traveller to acquaint himself with this ancient and interesting tongue, which is the sacred language of 90 Millions of the human race.

Remarks to the Student.

To an English eye, the Arabic Letters appear at first sight very puzzling and difficult and this is chiefly the reason why travellers think it impossible to learn Eastern Languages; besides which, the manner of imparting these languages has hitherto been of an old grammatical and forbidding form; but Eastern languages are not difficult to acquire, on the contrary, they are easily learnt, and any ordinary capacity can acquire a knowledge of them in a short time. We should advise those who wish to travel in the East, and to learn the colloquial Arabic Language in the shortest time, to copy each letter several times attentively, not all the letters at once, but three or four at a time. It will surprise the learner how soon he will understand each letter in its various positions. Having once mastered the Arabic Alphabet, he has also mastered that of the Turkish, Persian and Hindustani and has thus made a considerable inroad into the Eastern Languages. A Traveller thus becomes his own Dragoman, and in using these simple Self-taught systems will not only add greatly to his knowledge, but enjoy his sojourn in the East with advantage and profit.

The beginner will do well to learn as many Arabic words as he can by sound only, as a child expresses itself before it knows the letters, this will greatly facilitate the difficulty of reading and the combination of the Arabic language. The traveller must remember that most of the Arabs with whom he comes in contact can only speak, not read the language.

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