

# **THE ARABS: A TALE**

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The Arabs: A Tale by Henry Austen Driver

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**HENRY AUSTEN DRIVER**

**THE  
ARABS: A TALE**



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**THE ARABS:**

A TALE.

LONDON :  
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*J. H. 1825.*

**THE ARABS:**

A TALE,

IN FOUR CANTOS.

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BY

HENRY AUSTEN DRIVER.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR  
LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, BROWN, AND GREEN,  
PATERNOSTER ROW.

M.DCCC.XXV.

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TO

THOMAS MOORE, ESQ.

THIS TALE

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY HIS OBLIGED SERVANT,

H. A. DRIVER.



## PREFACE.

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ALTHOUGH the scene of the following Poem is laid in Arabia, I have not, therefore, called it 'an Arabian Tale,' for the incidents are not such as might be recounted in a circle of Bedouins; nor have I touched upon local circumstances any farther than where they seemed incidentally and necessarily connected with the subject. Should any additional information be desired relative to the customs, costumes, &c. of the Arabs, I beg to refer the reader to the volumes of Niebuhr and D'Arvieux. As to style—I am well aware that any attempt, on my part, to imitate the Arabian, even if the subject had admitted of it, must have ended in something "plus Arabe qu'en Arabie." But I need not apologise for such inability, for I believe the truly Oriental poem to be quite at variance with our prevailing taste. Six pages of "Antar" will be found sufficient for a sitting; because we cannot *feel* as Arabians. To affect their manner, therefore, would somewhat resemble the late project for the abstract

restoration of the Parthenon, on the Calton Hill at Edinburgh; where every thing would have been Grecian, except the feelings to which it would have appealed. The higher authorities of the day,—Southey, whose fine Tale of “Thalaba” has much of the Arabian glow in its complexion — Byron, into whose depths we are left to dive for the richest of his Orient pearls—and Moore, whose Muse comes before us like an Eastern Bride, bearing her rich and splendid dowry at once about her,—all have adopted a sort of Anglo-Oriental style, which is highly beautiful, and perfectly congenial with our taste: such steps, therefore, I may humbly follow. If the Tale should furnish an hour's amusement to those who may peruse it, as it has afforded me many in composing it, the only purpose of its publication will be fully answered: and, as Poetry, with me, is not an object of pursuit, except as a relaxation from matters of more importance, it may, possibly, be spared that critical chastisement which, I am too well aware, it would otherwise justly merit.

THE ARABS;

A Tale.