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## Lalla Rookh

Clara Louise Guild

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## Lalla Rookh.

The poem of 'Lalla Rookh' was written by Thomas Moore the famous Irish poet. His poems were then had few rivals, short elegant and melodious. In 1812, one of the large publishing houses agreed to pay him a large sum if he would produce a poem in the form of a story.

Moore immediately decided to write an Eastern romance. As he had never visited the East he was obliged to read books and accounts of the customs and manners of the people and condition of the country, in order to have these points accurate.

It took him three years to compose it, although in the meantime he wrote many short odes. The people received the production with great enthusiasm for there were not many poems of the kind.

This romance can hardly be called a poem for almost half of it is written in prose. It is, nevertheless, considered his finest poem.

The King Abdalla, of one of the provinces in India, wished to travel. In order

to do so, he placed his son on the throne. While Abdalla was on this journey, his son agrees to marry the daughter of the Emperor, Lalla Rokh. The nuptials would take place at Cashmere where the young king should just see his bride.

The young princess set out on her journey with great pomp and pageantry. Lalla Rokh who had never left her father's house before, found enough in the scenery to occupy her mind. During the first two or three days soon the princess turned only the horse, so as to avoid the heat. This grew very tiresome to Lalla Rokh. Her waiting-maids tried every way to amuse her, but failed. At last they remembered that the young king had sent a poet who could relate stories of the East. He was brought forward, and his appearance and bearing seemed to please the princess.

His first story was: "The Veiled Prophet of Khorassan". This was a very long and exciting story, and Lalla Rokh was so much interested, that she cared not for sleep or food until it was finished.

Then she requested more, and the "Paradise and the Girl", "The Fire Worshippers", and the "Light of the Haram" followed.

As they were nearing the end of

their journey there was no more time for another story, and so the poet, called Suramang, fell back into the train of followers and was not seen by Lalla Rokh.

For the same melancholy spirit returned, and her cheeks lost their color. The attendants became anxious for the princess, and wondered how the king would feel to see her looking so sad and pale, instead of gay and beautiful as she had been described to him.

The procession entered the valley of Cashmere at night, but they were met by strings sent out from the town, and they proceeded under arches of roses, and fireworks illuminated the way.

The marriage was to be celebrated the next morning. As Lalla Rokh was gone along through the wood, she watched eagerly to see if she might catch one more glimpse of Suramang. At last she reached the palace where she was to meet the king. The marble steps were covered with gold, and everything was decorated for the occasion.

At the end of the hall were two thrones. The young king was seated on one, the other side for the princess. As Lalla Rokh entered the hall the king descended to meet her, but before he reached her,

she fainted. The king was no other than  
Ferdinand, who had accompanied her all  
the way from Delhi.

The description of the East is carried out  
throughout the poem. The poem has that  
quiet and languor that <sup>is</sup> characteristic  
of that country. Some of the passages in  
the poem are beautiful, especially in the  
Light of the Haram:

*very well done.*

Due 57-1-'82;  
Presented 30-1-'82.  
Delay excused.

Wm L Guild  
Jan. 27-1881.