The Scourge of Damascus

A Story of the East...

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CHAPTER XXII.

The Executioner.

At an early hour the following morning he sent for Omar, who soon answered the call.

"I have one word to say—one request to make," said Hedam after the morning's greetings had passed—"with you once more to tell me the story of Helena's innocence, and thenceforth to remain silent upon the subject. I may have dreamed some of the things that now startle my thoughts; for I am not clear in some point you left me last night."

This called upon the black of Aleppo related all that he had told on the previous evening, and then made some further explanation of much that he had left for before to detail. It was a plain, simple statement, bearing the stamp of truth, and it was so understood by Hedam.

"And you say that Ben Hebel and Ezekiel with this Julian, Hedam, were the only three who knew of the plot against Helena?"

"Yes, sire."

"Then I suppose they knew of the plot against Hedam, and that they were in the pay of Ben Hebel, who, you say, was the chief in the plot against Hedam?"

"Yes, sire."

"Then, Omar, I suppose you know that Ben Hebel and Ezekiel are dead?"

"I do not know, sire, but I should think it very probable, for I have not seen them since the night of the attempt upon Hedam."

"Well, Omar, I suppose you know that Julian is dead?"

"I do not know, sire, but I should think it very probable, for I have not seen him