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# A PILGEIMAGE TO NEJD,

*THE CRADLE OF THE ARAB RACE.*

A VISIT TO THE COURT OF THE ARAB EMIR, AND  
"OUR PERSIAN CAMPAIGN."

**BY LADY ANNE BLUNT.**

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WITH MAP, PORTRAITS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS FROM  
THE AUTHOR'S DRAWINGS.

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THESE VOLUMES ARE DEDICATED  
TO  
**SIR HENRY CRESWICKE RAWLINSON,**  
**K.C.B., F.R.S.**

BY

THE AUTHORESS.

# CONTENTS TO VOL. I.

<b>CHAPTER I.....</b>	<b>2</b>
THE CHARM OF ASIA — A RETURN TO OLD FRIENDS — DESERT NEWS — THE PALMYRENE COLONY AT DAMASCUS — NEW HORSES AND CAMELS — MRS. DIGBY AND HER HUSBAND MIJUEL THE MIZRAB — A BLOOD FEUD — ABD EL-KADER'S LIFE — MIDHAT PASHA DISCOURSES ON CANALS AND TRAMWAYS — HE FAILS TO RAISE A LOAN. ....	2
<b>CHAPTER II.....</b>	<b>15</b>
BROTHERLY OFFICES — WE PREPARE FOR A CAMPAIGN — MOHAMMED DUKHI COMES TO COURT — A NIGHT ROBBER — WE START FOR NEJD — TALE OF A PENITENT — THE DUTY OF REVENGE — WE ARE ENTERTAINED BY POOR RELATIONS — THE FAIR AT MEZARIB. ....	15
<b>CHAPTER III.....</b>	<b>31</b>
BEATING ABOUT — BOZRA — WE LEAVE THE TURKISH DOMINIONS — MOHAMMED VOWS TO KILL A SHEEP — THE CITADEL OF SALKHAD AND THE INDEPENDENT DRUSES — WE ARE RECEIVED BY A DRUSE CHIEFTAIN — HISTORICAL NOTICE OF THE HAURAN.....	31
<b>CHAPTER IV.....</b>	<b>43</b>
WE START IN EARNEST — THE HARRA — A THEORY OF MIRAGE — CAMP OF THE BENI SOKKHR — WADY ER RAJEL — A CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE DESERT — SAND STORM — WE REACH KÂF. ....	43
<b>CHAPTER V.....</b>	<b>57</b>
KÂF AND ITHERI — MORE RELATIONS — THE WADY SIRHÂN — LOCUST HUNTING — HANNA SITS DOWN TO DIE — TALES OF ROBBERY AND VIOLENCE — WE ARE SURPRISED BY A GHAZÚ AND MADE PRISONERS — SHERARÂT STATISTICS — JÔF.....	57
<b>CHAPTER VI.....</b>	<b>76</b>

THE JÔF OASIS — WE ARE ENTERTAINED BY IBN RASHID'S  
LIEUTENANT — A HAUNCH OF WILD COW — DANCING IN  
THE CASTLE — PRAYERS — WE GO ON TO MESKAKEH. .... 76

**CHAPTER VII..... 87**

THE IBN ARÛKS OF JÔF — MOHAMMED CONTRACTS A  
MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCE — LEAH AND RACHEL — WE  
CHEAPEN THE BRIDE'S DOWER — A NEGRO GOVERNOR AND  
HIS SUITE — A THUNDER-STORM. .... 87

**CHAPTER VIII. .... 101**

MOHAMMED IN LOVE — WE ENTER THE RED SAND DESERT  
— GEOLOGY OF THE NEFÛD — RADI — THE GREAT WELL OF  
SHAKIK — OLD ACQUAINTANCE — TALES OF THE NEFÛD —  
THE SOLDIERS WHO PERISHED OF THIRST — THE LOVERS —  
WE NEARLY REMAIN IN THE SAND — LAND AT LAST. .... 101

**CHAPTER IX. .... 125**

JOBBA — AN UNPLEASANT DREAM — WE HEAR STRANGE  
TALES OF IBN RASHID — ROMPING IN THE NEFÛD — A LAST  
NIGHT THERE — THE ZODIACAL LIGHT — WE ENTER NEJD  
— THE GRANITE RANGE OF JEBEL SHAMMAR. .... 125

**CHAPTER X..... 142**

HAÏL — THE EMIR MOHAMMED IBN RASHID — HIS  
MENAGERIE — HIS HORSES — HIS COURTIER'S — HIS WIVES  
— AMUSEMENTS OF THE LADIES OF HAÏL — THEIR  
DOMESTIC LIFE — AN EVENING AT THE CASTLE — THE  
TELEPHONE..... 142

**CHAPTER XI. .... 171**

POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL — SHEPHERD RULE IN ARABIA  
— AN HEREDITARY POLICY — THE ARMY — THE LAW —  
TAXATION — THE FINANCES OF JEBEL SHAMMAR — IBN  
RASHID'S AMBITION..... 171



PORTRAIT OF LADY ANNE BLUNT IN ARAB COSTUME (BY  
MOLONY).

## PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

READERS of our last year's adventures on the Euphrates will hardly need it to be explained to them why the present journey was undertaken, nor why it stands described upon our title page as a "Pilgrimage." The journey to Nejd forms the natural complement of the journey through Mesopotamia and the Syrian Desert; while Nejd itself, with the romantic interest attached to its name, seems no unworthy object of a religious feeling, such as might prompt the visit to a shrine. Nejd, in the imagination of the Bedouins of the North, is a region of romance, the cradle of their race, and of those ideas of chivalry by which they still live. There Antar performed his labours of Hercules, and Hatim Tai the more historical hero entertained his guests. To the Anazeh and Shammar, especially, whose northward migrations date only from a few generations back, the tradition of their birthplace is still almost a recollection; and even to the Arabs of the earlier invasions, the townsmen of such places as Bozra, Palmyra, and Deyr, and to the Tai Bedouins, once lords of Jebel Shammar, it appeals with a fascination more