



# THE WIDOW WISE

Verses by Paul West & Drawings by W. H. Loomis



1—Mohammed Mulai Hassan Bey was Turkish, as you'll guess,  
But ultra-Europeanized, at least in speech and dress,  
And 'twas in Constantinople that he first set flashing eyes  
Upon our love-lorn, roving friend, the charming Widow Wise!

2—"Twas a dinner at the Consulate. The Widow Wise was there,  
Among the foremost honored guests, and never looked more fair.  
Mohammed Bey was hypnotized, and in his Eastern way  
Began to woo the Widow then and there without delay.

3—She caught his fervid glances, and she scorned them tactfully.  
"No harem-scarem Turkish Bey," she thought, "shall capture me!"  
"He's handsome, rich and civilized," they said, "and quite a catch!"  
But the Widow didn't fancy much this recommended match.

4—But ah, Mohammed Mulai Bey would not accept her scorn.  
He sent her 'round rich presents by a messenger next morn.  
And everywhere the Widow went she heard how great and grand  
This up-to-date young Turklet was, the model of the land.



5—The Bey himself called every day. The Widow was impressed,  
That he seemed different from the rest she to herself confessed.  
Perhaps if he had asked her then, a "yes" she might have said;  
But, ah, the Bey was too intent—his hand he overplayed.

6—Next day two Turkish ladies called—young, pretty, dark brunettes.  
They talked about Mohammed Bey and puffed their cigarettes.  
"You know him well?" the Widow asked. "Ah, very well," said they  
"You'd be a lucky woman, dear, if you should wed the Bey."

7—Still others called. A score in all. Each praised him, left and right.  
"Oh, he must be a splendid man," she pondered with delight.  
"You're relatives, I fancy, and you've known him all your lives?"  
"Not all," they said, "but quite some time—we are, you see, his wives!"

8—"Wives!" cried the Widow. "And you come to ask I wed him, too!"  
"Of course," the gentle ladies said, "as all good wives should do!"  
The Widow flushed. "No thanks!" she said, with scornful, flashing eyes,  
"TLL NEVER JOIN A SYNDICATE!" exclaimed the Widow Wise.