

SHEIKS OF SYRIA WORSHIP A DEVIL

Taos Malak, Fallen Angel, is Their Patron Saint.

Aleppo, Syria.—Taous Malak, the "fallen angel" whom God expelled from heaven, is the patron saint of the sheiks—not those whose handsome profiles thrown on the American screen have made flappers' hearts flutter.

The tribe of the Yazidies, worshippers of satan, from which the original sheiks sprang, are nomads living from cattle raising. They number about 12,000 and their habitat is north of Aleppo near the Djebel Soumann. Another branch is to be found at Khaltar, a small town in the vicinity of Diarkebir.

Sheiks claim they can trace their ancestry from heaven, being direct descendants of Sheik Charaf Eddin, or "the moon." Another early sheik was Amandin, which means "pillar supporting heaven," while a third one was directly related to the sun.

Some of the present-day sheiks claim to have the power of miracle in rendering inoffensive the bites of snakes and scorpions.

"Why do you worship the devil?" asked an American, who had been bitten by a poisonous insect, and, desirous of ascertaining the miraculous power of the sheiks, had sent for one.

"Satan is the source of all evil and if we ignore him we cannot avoid his wrath. God, on the contrary, is the essence of kindness and therefore we have nothing to fear from him," was the way the reply was translated.

There is no divorce among the real sheiks, in which they differ somewhat from the American species.

Sheiks marry only the daughters of other sheiks. The marriage ceremony is very simple. It is a question of mutual consent between the bride and the bridegroom, expressed before one of the older sheiks. Both newlyweds are then branded with red ink on the shoulders and forehead.

The sheik performing the ceremony then takes a branch of a tree and breaking it in two, says: "Remain united until death parts you as force has broken this branch."

Movement Launched to Abolish Poorhouses

Des Moines, Iowa.—An organized effort to abolish the poorhouse as an American institution will be launched as the result of an investigation financed by a dozen fraternal organizations and the United States Department of Labor.

Harry C. Evans of Des Moines, special commissioner of Secretary of Labor Davis, in a report made public upon a two-year nationwide survey of almshouses, recommends complete abolition of the prevailing county poorhouse system and the continuance of its essential functions in a central home for the aged in each commonwealth.

The present system, under which each county maintains a separate institution, is described in the report as "the worst mismanaged public business in the world" and "the symbol of humanity's degradations."

The central home plan was submitted, together with a detailed report of the survey, to the annual convention of American Fraternal Congresses at Buffalo, N. Y.

The suggested plan, the report said, "would dignify the last days of the poor, give them a home rather than a mere lodging house, where now are kept not only the indigent but often the insane, the criminal and the feeble-minded."

Cross Yak and Bison and Get the "Yakalo"

Wainwright, Alta.—The new breed of live stock called "Yakalo" is being developed in the national park at Wainwright by crossing buffalos with yaks.

"Yakalos" combine the meat producing qualities of the yak with the foraging characteristics of the buffalo, said G. B. Rothwell, director of the animal husbandry division of the Department of Agriculture. The new animals breed true to type, he said, and have proved more adaptable than "cattalo," evolved several years ago by crossing buffalo with domestic cattle. Cattalos are sterile.

The meat of yakalos is described as almost identical with beef, aside from being finer grained. The animals are hardy, can forage for themselves, are capable of wintering in the open, and are resistant to many of the common diseases of domestic cattle.

Washerwoman Pose of British Flapper

London, England.—The "washerwoman pose" is the British flapper's latest. She now assumes an arms-akimbo attitude which at one time would have been considered inelegant, if not vulgar, but is now considered in the height of fashion.

Capes and cloaks, now much in vogue, are blamed for the new style. When they were sponsored at the dress displays earlier in the season observant women noticed that the mannequins invariably placed one hand lightly on the hip when demonstrating the swing of the new models. Later the same acute women discovered that what had appeared to be merely an effective "gesture" was an attitude demanded by the cut of the capes, which look dowdy and uninteresting with the arms hanging by the sides. "Elbows out," therefore, is the new rule.

PRIVATE MUSEUM ON TOP OF SKYSCRAPER

Bingham Keeps Rare Marine Specimens in Suite.

New York.—On the top floor of the office building at 82 Broadway, in the heart of the financial district, there is what is undoubtedly the only skyscraper oceanographic museum in the world. Perhaps it is an exaggeration to call it a museum for it consists of only two rooms of a private office suite, and it is not now, and probably never will be, open to the public. But in the glass cases and in glass jars awaiting study and mounting are some 3,000 specimens of marine life, many of them of hitherto unknown species.

This office building collection is the nucleus of what is expected to grow into a thoroughly organized private museum, which Harry Payne Bingham, its owner, will house in an appropriate building. Meanwhile Mr. Bingham is working in company with Louis L. Mowbray, assistant director of the Aquarium, classifying and studying the wealth of marine material they got on the three months' 11,000-mile expedition they made last spring in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

Some Extraordinary Fish. Hundreds of these specimens already have been mounted and placed in glass cases in Mr. Bingham's office at 82 Broadway. Others are on the wall. Many of them are deep-sea varieties, in the grotesque shapes made familiar by William Beebe's descriptions last year of the ocean treasures he found on his cruise in the Arcturion. Their range of size is extraordinary.

There is one fish from the depths of the ocean only three inches long. It is equipped with a tough skin which has prevented it blowing up as most deep-sea fish do when brought to the surface from the heavy pressure of the lower levels of water. And on the wall nearby is a giant swordfish 12 feet long. On the wall also is a specimen of weakfish six feet long, weighing 175 pounds, in striking contrast to the six-pound variety caught in New York waters and served on restaurant tables.

The skyscraper collection contains even a sea-serpent. It looks like a blacksnake about three feet long, with the under side of its head white. It was caught close to shore in the Gulf of California.

All Mounted and Painted. The fish, as they are seen in Mr. Bingham's office, are in their original shapes and colors. Francis West, taxidermist of the Bingham-Mowbray expedition, made plaster casts of the five fish while they were flopping about the deck. Their skins have now been fitted over these casts and painted by Wilfred Bronson, an artist, who observed them in life in a diving suit and made notes of their coloring.

In an adjoining room is a motion picture projection machine and a screen on which Mr. Bingham and Mr. Mowbray can throw pictures they took on their voyage. With the aid of this they can study again the life habits of the sea animals.

Mr. Bingham admitted that it was true that he was planning to establish a museum, but said his plans were entirely vague thus far and that he did not yet have enough material to warrant forming a museum. His office serves meanwhile as a storeroom and workshop.

Mr. Bingham formerly was a member of the New York Stock exchange, but sold his seat two years ago to concentrate his attention on his studies of marine life, in which he has long been interested. He intends to make another three months' voyage early next year in search of specimens. He and his party will travel in the Pawnee, his 100-foot yacht, in which he explored southern waters this year. The yacht is equipped with Diesel engines. It contains a laboratory, rooms for mounting the specimens and elaborate paraphernalia for exploring the depths.

Church Censors Clothes. Milan.—Women who dress too modernly will be refused admittance to church, by order of Cardinal Tosi, who has forbidden public dances.

New Milliken Light Dims X-Ray's Force

Washington.—The newly discovered Milliken light ray has the most powerful penetrating force of any ray ever brought to human notice, the Smithsonian Institution announced in a bulletin calling attention to the fact that the new ray will penetrate a layer of lead six feet thick, whereas the X-ray can be stopped with a thin sheet of the same metal. No one can foresee by what remarkable uses the ray may be made to serve mankind, the bulletin added.

The extraordinary penetrating powers of the new ray depend on the extreme shortness of the wave length. Ordinary broadcasting radio, or Hertzian rays, have waves from 100 to 3,000 meters. Professor Langley found rays in the sun's and moon's beams, which were invisible to the eye, of a wave length of one-hundredth of a millimeter, or 100,000,000 times shorter than 1,000-meter radio. The new rays which Milliken has found are 2,000 times shorter in wave length than the average X-ray.

LIGHTNING BURNS OFF HIS WHISKERS

Farmer Struck While on Plow Has Narrow Escape.

Allance, Neb.—Struck on the head by lightning, Joe W. Kennedy, forty-five, farmer, still lives to tell the tale and the attending physician says he will recover. Kennedy was riding a gang plow pulled by four horses. He saw the storm approaching, but not regarding it as particularly threatening, he kept on with his work. He says he saw no flash and heard no thunder, but the next thing he knew was when he found a doctor bending over him in the hospital here.

The lightning struck Kennedy above the right ear, burned the crown of his hat, scorched the hair from his head and plowed its way across his cheek, jumping from there to his chest, which was seared, and onto his legs, where deep burns were left. From there it entered the iron seat of the plow on which he was riding, melting the metal into a mass and then passed along the steel cable to which his lead team of horses was attached to the plow. One of the four was instantly killed.

Kennedy was knocked unconscious and was found a half hour later by his wife and daughter. The lightning put out of commission most of the telephones in the neighborhood.

The course of the lightning could be clearly traced from where it struck Kennedy to where it leaped from his body. A full set of whiskers that adorned his face went up in smoke. The accident occurred on the man's farm five miles from town.

Woman on 17th Annual Hike Across Bridge

New York.—The Manhattan bridge has at least one true friend and admirer—Mrs. Joseph Woolston, Union City, N. J.

"I have done it again," said Mrs. Woolston. "You know I was the first woman to walk across the Manhattan bridge, and since then I have walked across it, rain or shine, every year on the anniversary of the opening of the footpath."

Mrs. Woolston was asked the reason for her attachment to the structure. Had she lived formerly in the neighborhood of the span?

"No," she said. "I used to live in this city, but that was years before the bridge was opened. But the day they opened it I came to New York alone to be at the ceremonies. When the bluecoats took down the bars I started across."

"When I got to the middle of the bridge a big, fine policeman said to me: 'Madame, you are the first woman to walk across Manhattan bridge. If I were you I would celebrate that by coming here every year on July 18 and walking across it.'"

"Since then," continued Mrs. Woolston, "I have not missed a year. I used to walk over and get a drink of water at the little fountain on Nassau street, at the Brooklyn end, but I could not get that drink today because the fountain is gone."

Shuttleless Loom Is Invented by German

London.—A shuttleless loom hitherto regarded as an impossibility, has been invented by a German named Gobler, according to a report from Berlin and has been already thoroughly tested and proved feasible in German factories before being publicly announced. The mechanism is described as the simplest and works on two rods which carry threads and weave all kinds of cotton yarn and jute with the same apparatus.

The claim is made that production is quicker and safer, that the number of operatives is reduced, that the complicated preliminary steps before winding the threads will be obviated and the cost of the loom construction greatly lessened.

Lancashire has not yet heard of the new invention and is not likely to adopt it unless its weaving skill, handed down through generations, is equally applicable to the new machine as with the old well-tried Arkwright loom.

Blade in Man's Skull 28 Years Is Removed

Birmingham, Ala.—A piece of knife blade two inches long was removed by surgeons at Opelika, Ala., from the head of R. P. Waller of Auburn, after having been in Waller's head for the last 28 years. The operation is considered a remarkable one.

Waller said that when he was about ten years of age he was stabbed with a knife in the hands of a drunken man. At the time Waller was stabbed it was said by doctors that only an open wound was left. This quickly healed.

For many years Waller suffered with severe headaches, and did not know the cause. Recently an X-ray examination was made of Waller's head and the piece of broken knife-blade was discovered. The operation was a success, and Waller says his headaches have disappeared and that he feels better than for years.

Losses Leg to Save Dog

Middletown, N. Y.—To avoid killing a dog which stood on the tracks of the New York, Ontario & Western railroad, Jacob Hauser applied the brakes on a gasoline track car, causing it to overturn, inflicting injury which necessitated the amputation of one of his legs.

THE SINGING LINE

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

A LINE that will not let you sleep Goes singing through your brain And, if that line you'd like to keep, Before you sleep again Arise and find your pen tonight, Arise and find your pen and write, Or when you waken at the dawn You'll find your singing line is gone.

And life is full of singing lines, Some impulse fine and true, Some kindness that the heart designs For human hands to do. Oh, let them never sing in vain!— Before we turn aside again Oh, let us write that impulse on Some life, before the line is gone.

For many a man has nobly thought, For one who did a deed, 'T is not to know the thing we ought To do, that now we need. The world is full of singing lines, Some kindness that the heart designs— The need of me, the need of you, Not hearts to feel, but hands to do! (By McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

The Hotel Stenographer
By Roe Fulkerson

"HE'S A repaint job," said the Hotel Stenographer, looking after a man as he left her desk. "Huh?" The House Detective didn't understand.

"She didn't get a new car when she married him," explained the girl, "because he's been married before. He's a repaint job and likely to peel in the hot sun of life."

"She has taught him how to wear a dress suit, but she can't keep him from carrying pipe cleaners in the pocket of his swallowtail. He just will wear his napkin and she can't induce him to throw away the gold toothpick he won in a Kelly pool tournament."

"He has a lot of money, and all that, but she was foolish enough to think she could mold him to fit a two-dollar book on etiquette she learned from cover to cover when she was a ticket seller in the Odeon Moving Picture Palace."

"One woman had already molded him and he had hardened in her mold. He is too old for her to knead him even if she did need his dough."

"The trouble with marrying a widower is, they have a certain place to put their shoes and a certain way of cutting up their food, and it's almost impossible for a new wife to change them. No woman is very happy unless she thinks she is remaking her man. It can't always be done with new material—never with old. No made-over dress or husband is ever quite satisfactory to the woman in possession."

"You can saw branches off an old tree, but unless you start with it as a sapling, you can't train it. Believe thou me, I am not going to marry a widower unless all the stock of young men has been used up."

"Widowers and older men are always kinder to dumb brutes," reminded the House Detective. (Copyright by the McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

SAWS

By Viola Brothers Shore

FOR THE GOOSE— IF AN unmarried woman is restless everybody says it's because she ain't got a husband. And generally it is.

By delay in usin' it, a perfectly delicious can of crab meat gets to be the worst kind of poison.

Don't tell even the truth, if it'll displease your friend. And don't tell a lie, even if it'll please her.

Men that ain't your husband love to buy you little trifles like candy or flowers. Husbands prefer to buy you some'n lastin'—like a tombstone.

FOR THE GANDER— If a man's got on'y a little money and makes a will, it may be the savin' of his wife. But if a man's got a lot and don't, it may be the savin' of his life.

When business is good, a man can stand nearly anything.

It's good to be an early fisherman, but it's better to be a lucky one.

Justice is one thing everybody's willin' to see the other feller get.

All the oratory in the world ain't as much use as fifteen cents' worth of gasoline when it comes to startin' a flivver. (Copyright.)

Ludwig Spöhr, violinist, conductor and composer, was the first to use a baton for conducting a large orchestra in England.

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Temper. People who do not control their tempers nearly always say they cannot. Within us are greater forces than we credit, and only the chronic invalid finds his mental capacity insufficient to overcome his physical weaknesses. Temper is a physical weakness, and for your own happiness, as well as for the happiness of others, you must determine to overcome it. If you do not, it will overcome you.—Exchange.

Travel on Dead Sea. The Dead sea has been navigated in the past, although not continually or for commercial purposes. It was navigated by an Irishman named Costigan in 1853; by Molyneux in 1847. An American, Commander Lynch, explored it in 1848. It is related that the sea was navigated by the Knights of St. John during the Twelfth century.

Pheasant Fast Walker. A nine-inch stride—this is the secret of the pheasant's speed. There is no American game bird faster on foot than the imported ring-neck. He is the greyhound of the uplands. Instead of flushing before the gunner, he usually prefers to employ his legs, and disappears like a streak, with only a glimpse of the long tail to mark his progress.—Detroit News.

Best Sealing Wax. Equal parts of shoemaker's wax and resin make a good sealing wax. It will not tempt mice and insects as paraffin does.

Much Lumber in Log. A log estimated to contain 9,000 feet of lumber was taken to a mill in Longview, Wash., from Ryderwood. It was cut from a Douglas fir and measured 36 feet in length, 10 feet in diameter at one end and 8 feet 4 inches at the other.

Productive Ice Machine. Los Angeles boasts of the largest electrically driven ice machine in the world. It has a daily capacity of 700 tons and is operated by an electric motor of 800 horsepower.

Conductor Walks Far. A passenger riding from Boston to New York city on a railroad train loaned the conductor a pedometer. In picking up tickets on the trip the conductor found that he walked nine miles during the one-way journey.

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