

# VALIANT DUST

by Percival Christopher Wren

**SYNOPSIS:** Intrigue seethes in the Citadel of Mekazen near which Major Napoleon Hickox of the Foreign Legion plots treason to France. Margaret Maligri sees from her and Raisal, cruel and spoiled son of the Kaid of Mekazen, proceeds more attentively. Margaret does not know that her betrothed sweetheart Otho Bellens is a prince in the Command of Riccoli, nor that Jules, mother rents her presence in Mekazen.

Chapter 16

## THE JOLLY KAID

THE Kaid Abd'Allah Karim, seated upon his cushions in the Lady Zainub's chamber, laughed merrily his famous laugh, that hearty, deep-chested, full-throated laugh which shook him from head to foot, and which so rarely inspired a sense of amusement and inclination to laughter, in the hearer.

"Ha, ha, thou Desires of Emperors, thou Moon of my Delight that know'st no wane, what saith the Prophet Himself (on whom be peace)—and he, Allah witness, know something of women—what saith he?"

"Well, what does he say?" inquired the Lady Zainub, humoring her lord with smiles, and wondering whether, in the end, he would stick a knife in her, or have her thrown from the battlements in a sack.



Casting herself at his feet, she begged her lord to be seated, promising him amendment, obedience, and great entertainment.

But remarking that, although he had intended to stay for the remainder of the day, he was constrained by her distressing wearisomeness to leave it, the Kaid strode away, for he had an important engagement.

Thus it was a moment not more than an hour later than the time appointed, that he entered his council chamber, attended by his son, Raisal; his friend and agent, the Señor Pedro Maligri; his agent's son, Mr. Jules Maligri; his confidential scribe and secretary, Abu Talib Zerhoun; mighty Ibrahim the Lion, his gigantic bodyguard; and the stern and stalwart commander-in-chief of his fighting men, Mahommed Ali el Amin, Mahommed the Trustworthy, Mahommed the Reliable.

Seating himself on a handsome, if somewhat dirty, divan, the Kaid courteously signified his pleasure that the others should be seated also, and bade Abu Talib, the scribe, go and inform the visitor who had arrived yesterday (on Señor Pedro Maligri's recommendation and personal guarantee), that the Kaid sat in audience, and would receive him.

"A little you weary me," said the Kaid.

"To strangers and wayfarers be kind," saith the Koran, observed the Kaid, and laughed meaningly. "He is undoubtedly a wayfarer by now," smiled Pedro Maligri, "as he has come deviously hither from Germany by way of Egypt, Tunis and Algeria."

"And I shall undoubtedly be kind," laughed the Kaid again. A few minutes later the scribe returned, accompanied by a tall, thick-set, broad-shouldered man, dressed as an Arab, his bearded face sunburnt and weather-bent. In Arab fashion and speech, he saluted and greeted the Kaid and the assembled company.

The Kaid clapped his hands loudly; servants entered at the signal, and were bidden to bring coffee, mint-tea and cigarettes.

"Perhaps, being a foreigner, our guest would prefer strong drink of the foreigners?" inquired the Kaid courteously.

The stranger signified that he would be loth to offend his host's eyes and delicate nostrils with the sight and scent of the forbidden and abhorrent drink.

The Kaid laughed merrily, and the stranger eyed him thoughtfully the while.

"Well," said the Kaid, "as to that, I can bear it, I can bear it. In fact, to speak the truth—which is ever pleasant and natural to my lips—I have tasted it. Yea sometimes I drink it. . . . And yet, on the other hand, I do not drink it, I never drink it."

"A hard saying, Lord Kaid," mused the stranger. "A riddle, in fact."

"Yes," agreed the Kaid. "The solution of the riddle being that my Holy Mullah, most pious and learned man in Mekazen—yea, in all the country—yea, in all Mogreb—blesses it, and straightaway it turns to milk in my mouth!"

"Let us drink milk," he added. In the ensuing conversation and negotiation, the Kaid showed himself the keen man of business—the business of war—the heredity, training, and environment had made him.

The visitor or emissary, on the other hand, proved less competent and, on the few points upon which they differed, was, without great difficulty, outmaneuvered, overborne and defeated.

Plot and counterplot continue, tomorrow, in the grim Citadel of Mekazen.

## KLAMATH BARBER SHOP IS BOMBED

KLAMATH FALLS, Feb. 27.—(AP) Damage amounting to several hundred dollars was caused here during Saturday by a crude dynamite bomb which was thrown at a barber shop, recently opened on a non-union, cut price basis.

The bomb, composed of a couple of sticks of blasting powder, apparently was thrown from a passing automobile, it bounded up the street past the barber shop and crashed into the front of a real estate and insurance office.

The barber shop was opened a week ago by N. W. Mickey at cut prices, and union shops later dropped their prices to the lowest point in the city's history.

WALL PAPER Up to the minute 1933 Patterns at K. D. BOSS CO., 24 S. Grape.

## WAR HERO DIES IN BANDIT CHASE

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Feb. 27.—(AP)—Glen Paul Rogers, world war pilot and draughtsman for the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, was shot to death early Sunday in a police chase in which he participated through

Hollywood resulting in the killing of the "purple mask" robber. The robber was identified as Richard Wells, a negro. For weeks scores of robberies had been reported in the Hollywood area by a man wearing a purple cloth over his face with a hole cut from one eye.

Rogers drove up to two policemen saying he had been robbed, urging them to jump on his car and get the

robber. They did. Down Hollywood Boulevard the chase was on. As Rogers drove near the negro's car, the robber turned and fired at the police officer who was standing on the running board, but the bullet struck Rogers.

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## 5-Cent Fares For Portland Started

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 27.—Effective at midnight Saturday 5-cent street car zones were established here under an order approved by Charles M. Thomas, state utilities commissioner. The proposal was made by the street car company.

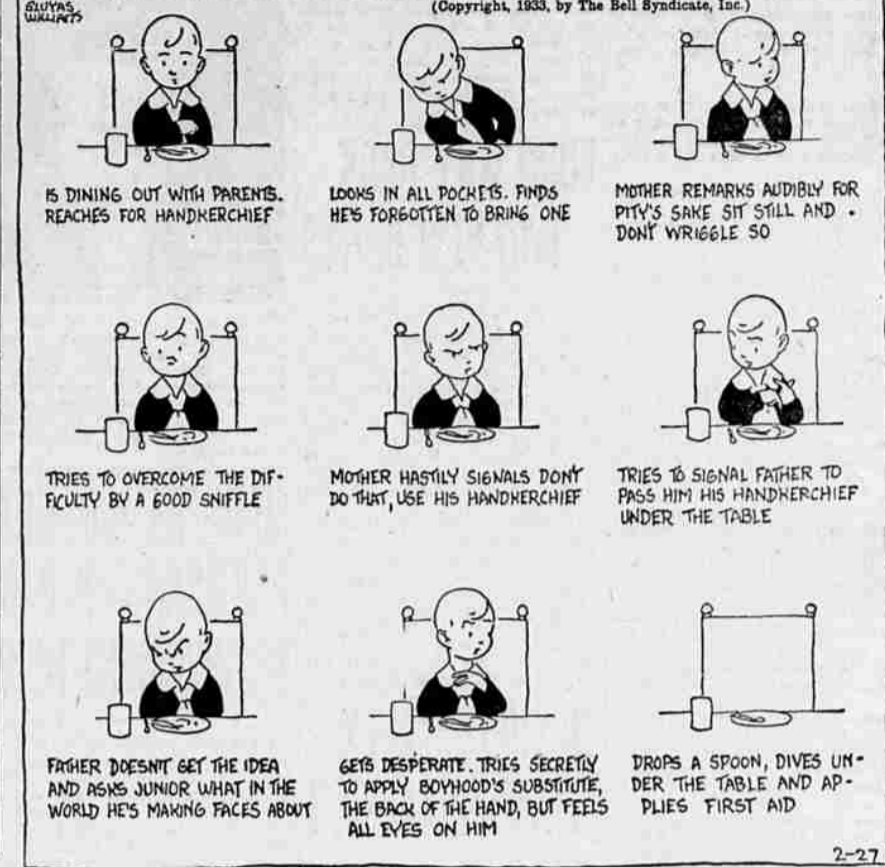
## S'MATTER POP—

By C. M. PAYNE



## SNAPSHOTS OF A BOY WITHOUT A HANDKERCHIEF

BY GLUYAS WILLIAMS



## TAILSPIN TOMMY—Just Suppose

By GLENN CHAFFIN and HAL FORREST



## BOUND TO WIN—The Search For Ben

By EDWIN ALGER



## THE NEBBS—As You Sow

By SOL HESS



## BRINGING UP FATHER

By George McManus



Oregon Weather Unsettled with rain west portion and snow and rain east portion temperature, strong southeast and south winds offshore.

Auto Theft Brings Jolt. PENDLETON, Feb. 27.—(AP)—Andrew Young, 21, former resident of Enterprise, was sentenced to two years in state prison today when he pleaded guilty to theft of an automobile at Milton.

There's No Guesswork in Tribune A. B. C. Circulation