

28. Hospitality is a virtue for which the natives of the East in general are highly and deservedly admired ; and the people of Egypt are well entitled to commendation on this account. A word which signifies literally "a person on a journey" ("musafir") is the term most commonly employed in this country in the sense of a visitor or guest. There are very few persons here who would think of sitting down to a meal, if there were a stranger in the house without inviting him to partake of it unless the latter were a menial ; in which case, he would be invited to eat with the servants. It would be considered a shameful violation of good manners if a Muslim abstained from ordering the table to be prepared at the usual time because a visitor happened to be present. Persons of the middle classes in this country, if living in a retired situation, sometimes take their supper before the door of their house, and invite every passenger of respectable appearance to eat with them. This is very commonly done among the lower order. In cities and large towns, claims on hospitality are unfrequent ; as there are many wekalehs, or khans, where strangers may obtain lodging ; and food is very easily procured ; but in the villages, travellers are often lodged and entertained by the Sheykh or some other inhabitant ; and if the guest be a person of the middle or higher classes, or even not very poor he gives a present to his host's servants, or to the host himself. In the desert, however, a present is seldom received from a guest. By a Sunneh law, a traveller may claim entertainment from a person able to afford it to him, for three days.



The people of East, particularly of Egypt, are well-known for their hospitality. In Egypt, a term "musafir" is used for a guest. The guest is always invited for a meal there. Otherwise, it comes in bad manners. In this country, the lower and middle classes often invite strangers for a meal. This kind of hospitality is rare in cities but common in villages. There is also a practice of giving a gift to the host. A person can stay a guest for three days there.

## Hospitality of the People of Egypt

from a person able to afford it to him, for three days.

**21.** Day by day her influence and dignity increased. First of all she received the title of *Noor Mahal*, 'Light of the Harem' but was afterwards distinguished by that of *Noor Jahan Begam*, 'Light of the World.' All her relations and connexions were raised to honour and wealth.....No grant of lands was conferred upon any one except under her seal. In addition to giving her the titles that other kings bestowed, the Emperor granted Noor Jahan the rights of sovereignty and government. Sometimes she would sit in the balcony of her palace, while the nobles would present themselves, and listen to her dictates. Coin was struck in her name, with this superscription : 'By order of the King Jehangir, gold has a hundred splendours added to it by receiving the impression of the name of Noor Jahan, the Queen Begam.' On all *farmans* also receiving the Imperial signature, the name of 'Noor Jahan, the Queen Begam,' was jointly attached. At last her authority reached such a pass that the King was such only in name. Repeatedly he gave out that he had bestowed the sovereignty on Noor Jahan Begam, and would say, 'I require nothing beyond a *sir* of wine and half a *sir* of meat.' It is impossible to describe the beauty and wisdom of the Queen. In any matter that was presented to her, if a difficulty arose, she immediately solved it. Whoever threw himself upon her protection was preserved from tyranny and oppression ; and if ever she learnt that any orphan girl was destitute and friendless, she would bring about her marriage, and give her a wedding portion. It is probable that during her reign not less than 500 orphan girls were thus married and portioned.



**22.** Danta was of moderate height and after receiving...

Noor Jahan became highly influential during the reign of the King Jehangir. She received various titles, developed high-level connections and held crucial positions in the court. The nobles would listen to her. Also, her name was inscribed in the currency and the royal stamp. At one point, she was acting as the king. The King vested all authority in her. Moreover, the queen was beautiful, wise and kind-hearted. During her reign, she helped numerous orphaned girls getting married.

## Glory of the Queen Noor Jahan

22. Dante was of moderate height and after reaching maturity, was accustomed to walking somewhat bowed, with a slow and gentle pace, clad always in such sober dress as befitted his ripe years. His face was large, and the lower lip protruded beyond the upper. His complexion was dark, his hair and beard thick, black, and curled, and his expression ever melancholy and thoughtful.

In both his domestic and his public demeanour he was admirably composed and orderly, and in all things courteous and civil beyond any other. In food and drink he was most temperate, both in partaking of them at the appointed hours and in not passing the limits of necessity. Nor did he show more epicurism in respect of one thing than another, He praised delicate viands, but ate chiefly of plain dishes, and censured beyond measure those who bestow a great part of their attention upon possessing choice things, and upon the extremely careful preparation of the same, affirming that such persons do not eat to live, but rather live to eat.

None was more vigilant than he in study and in whatever else he undertook, insomuch that his wife and family were annoyed thereby, until they grew accustomed to his ways, and after that they paid no heed thereto. He rarely spoke unless questioned, and then thoughtfully, and in a voice suited to the matter whereof he treated. When, however, there was cause he was eloquent and fluent in speech, and possessed of an excellent and ready delivery. In his youth he took the greatest delight in music and song, and enjoyed the friendship and intimacy of all the best singers and musicians of his time. Led on by this delight he composed many poems, which he made them clothe in pleasing and masterly melody.



In his old-age, Dante ~~was~~ <sup>became</sup> modest in walking and dressing. He had an unusual appearance and a thoughtful expression. Moreover, he was a true gentleman in his all affairs and gave due importance to all the things. He ate moderately and always on time. He did not has the liking for a particular food and criticized those who were too much into eating. Besides that he was extremely competent and well-spoken. He also liked ~~music~~ music while he was young and wrote some amazing poems.

## A Brief Overview of Dante's Life