THE CENTRE REPORTER, CENTRE HALL, PA.



CHAPTER XVI-Continued. -10-

that they only believed the third of the ammunition! I saw that I would need skill and much the East and the world is ours!" patience. So I began to learn.

"Times I would go to Delhi and

dance there a little, and a little in he objected. "Mere numbers-" other places-once indeed before a like the sleeper until you came. And come and steal the meat! The old I thought at last that I must manage ting ready ! Thou and Iall alone. And then you came!

ing trip. You remember?"

to know the truth of that affair. The friend! Is that not so?" grin transforced his whole appearance. until Yasmini beamed on him.

"I'm listening, princess !" he reminded her.

"Well-he came-the prince of Germany. I offered him India first, then Asia, then the world-even as I now offer them to you. The sirkar sent him Listen! to see me dance, and he stayed to hear me talk. When I saw at last that

"Listen, while I tell you all from the these three years! Bombs and rifles floor for the use of archers. beginning! The sirkar sent me to dis- and cartridges! Muhammad Anim's cover what may be this 'Heart of the men, whom he trusts because he must, Hills' men talk about. I found these hid it all in a cave I showed them, that There is no other entrance !" caves-and this! I told the sirkar a they think, and he thinks, has only one little about the caves, and nothing at entrance to it. Muhammad Anim sealed name for him, although there was no all about the sleepers. But even at it, and he has the key. But I have air of finality about it. It was as if

what I said. And I-back in Delhi I "There was another way out of that and that was a sacred name. It was bought books. When I had read enough cave, although there is none now, for amazing how she conveyed that im-I came back here to think. I knew I have blocked it. My men, whom I pression without using words. enough now to be sure that the sleeper trust because I know them, carried evis a Roman and the 'Heart of the erything out by the back way, and I Hills' a Grecian maid. She is like me. have it all. We, my warrior, when Mu- and set these cauldrons in place, to That is why I know she drove him hammad Anim gets the word from Ger- boil oil to pour down. Could any army to make an empire, choosing for a be- many and gives the sign, and the 'Hills' ginning these 'Hills' where Rome had are afire, and the whole East roars in never penetrated. I have seen it all in the flame of the jihad-we will put ourdreams. And because I was all alone, selves at the head of that jihad, and King smiled at her.

"The East isn't very well armed,"

"Numbers?" She laughed at him. viceroy, and once for the king of Eng- "The West has the West by the throat! land. And all the while I kept look- It is tearing itself! They will drag in piles. ing for the man-the man who should America ! There will be no armed nabe like the sleeper, even as I am like tion with its hands free-and while her whom he loved! There was none those wolves fight, other wolves shall when the world war broke-for it is gods, who built these caves in the a world war, a world war, I tell you !- 'Hills,' are laughing! They are get-

As she coupled him and herself to-"But there were many I tried-many gether in one plan she read the -especially after I abandoned the changed expression of his face-the thought that the man must resemble very quickly passing cloud that even the Sleeper. There was a prince of the best-trained man cannot control.

Germany who came to India on a hunt- "I know !" she asserted, sitting upright and coming out of her dream to King pricked his ears and allowed face facts as their master. She looked himself to grin, for in common with more lovely now than ever, although many hundred other men who had twice as dangerous. "You are thinking been lieutenants at the time, he would of your brother-of his head ! That I once have given an ear and an eye am a murderess who can never be your He did not answer, but his eyes may

have betrayed something, for she looked as if he had struck her.

"Oh, I have needed you so much, these many years! And now that you have come you want to hate me because you think I killed your brother!

"Without my leave, Muhammad Anim sent five hundred men on a foray he has the head and heart of a hyena I toward the Khyber. Bull-with-a-beard spat in his face and threw food at him. needed an Englishman's head, for "He complained to the sirkar against proof for a spy of his who could not enter Khinjan caves. They trappel your brother outside All Masjid with fifty of his men. They took his head after a long fight, leaving more than was both cholera and bubonic plague, a hondred of their own in payment. "Bull-with-a-beard was pleased. But -I swear to you by my gods who have knew it was your brother's head when mite!" you held it up in the Cavern of Earth's Drink! Then I knew it could not be the mountain up!" King advised her. one knee; for it is wiser to think than dagger hilt on the table, and to look anybody else's head!"

bombs ! Dynamite bombs have been | a long passage, holding his hand all coming into Khinjan month by month the way, to show him slots cut in the

> "You entered Khinjan caves by a tunnel under this floor, well-beloved.

By this time "well-beloved" was her she paved the way for use of Athelstan

"The Sleeper cut these slots for his archers. Then he had another thought force a way through by the route by which you entered?"

"No," he said, marveling at the tonweight copper cauldrons, one to each hole.

"And I have more than a thousand Mauser rifles here, and more than a million rounds of ammunition!"

She showed him a cave in which boxes were stacked in high, square

"Dynamite bombs!" she boasted. 'How many boxes? I forget! Too

DeALTON ALENDAS "They Will Lay Waste India! They

Yasmini shouted in his ear; for the stool of the throne, and even pitied minutes, gazing at the Sleeper and his din, mingling with the river's voice, her.

made a volcano chord. "They will lay waste India! They will butcher and hair back over her shoulder her eyes ness to himself was actually startling. plunder and burn! It will be what glowed with another meaning-danger- Startling-weird-like an incantation they leave of India that we shall build ous-like a tiger's glare. "You plty me? You think because spoke, anew and govern, for India herself will

rise to help them lay her own cities I love you, you can feed my love on waste! It is always so! Conquests a plate to the Indian government? teeth! His sons have multiplied his always are so! Come!" She tugged at him and led him back against me? Your love for me may Gotama, the Buddha, was before Mualong the tunnel and through other wait for a better time? You are not hammad and he knew more! He told made him sit at her feet again. The

tunnels to the throne room, where she so wise as I thought you, Athelstan !" of the wheel of things, and there is a But he knew he had won. His heart wheel! Yet, what knew the Buddha of food had been cleared away in their was singing down inside him as it had the wheel? He who spoke of Dharma absence. Instead, on the ebony table not sung since he left India behind. (the customs of the law) not knowing But he stood quite humbly before her, Dharma! This is true-of old there there were pens and ink and paper. for had he not kissed her? He knew was a wish of the gods-of the old

tear your metals off and shoot you

never could have told.

CHAPTER XVII.

"You know where is Dar es Salaam?" asked Yasmini. "East Africa," said King.

"And English warships watch the Persian gulf and all the seas from India to Aden?" King nodded. "Have the English any ships that known. What I write will be believed. ceiving blessings.

dive under water, in these waters?" "I think not. I'm not sure, but I shall take two-four-witnesses. He think not."

"The grenades you have seen, and give them the letter when they reach the rifles and cartridges were sent by the Khyber and shall send them into end! the Germans to Dar es Salaam, to India with it. Have no fear. Bullsuppress a rising of African natives. Does it begin to grow clear to you, my friend?"

He smiled as well as nodded this time

"Muhammad Anim used to wait with you and I! Come !" a hundred women at a certain place on the seashore. What he found on had been caresses. Triumph shone from her eyes. She tossed her brave the beach there he made the women carry on their heads to Khinjan. So chin and laughed at him, only enthey worked, he and the Germans, for couraged to greater daring by his atti-I know not how long-with the Eng- tude, and by the time they reached the lish watching the seas as on land lean ebony table and she had taken the pen wolves comb the valleys."

"What were the terms of the German bargain?" King asked her, "What joke had grown into a hundred. stipulations did they make?"

"With the tribes? None! They on in Germany's good time; and when given it to King to read. It was not her. that time should come ten rifles in the like a woman's letter. It did not waste 'Hills' and a thousand cartridges would a word. mean not only a hundred dead Englishwas no need? A rifle is what it is. The 'Hills' are the 'Hills !" " "Tell me about your lamp oil, then."

he said. "You burn enough oil in Khinjan caves to light Bombay! That cans of kerosene-a few score gallons of vegetable oil, and all bound for farther north. There isn't enough oil pressed among the 'Hills' to keep these all come from?"

"Athelstan !" she said at last. "It

"No," he said.

"Slow of resolution !"

She clapped her hands.

a child's questions, finding delicious believe the witnesses !" enjoyment in instructing him.

"There are three villages, not two today !" she said, with more amuse- her eyes, so that it needed all his mandays' march from Khabul, where men ment than malice. After that she was hood to hold him back from being her

queen. And from the new angle from She felt the pity. As she tossed the which King saw him the Sleeper's like were Yasmini's words when at last she

"Muhammad lied! He lied in his You think my love is a weapon to use lie! Siddhattha, whom men have called he had won. Yet if anyone had asked gods. And so these two were. There him how he knew that he had won, he is a wish again now of the old gods. So, are we two not as they two were? "If you were to go back to India ex. It is the same wish, and lo! We are cept as its conqueror, they would strip ready, this man and I. We will obey, the buttons from your uniform and ye gods-ye old gods!"

She raised her arms and, going closer in the back against a wall! My signa- to the bed, stood there in an attitude ture is known in India and I am of mystic reverence, giving and re-

"Dear gods!" she prayed. "Dear old Rewa Gunga shall take a letter. He gods-older than these 'Hills'-show shall see them on their way and shall me in a vision what their fault waswhy these two were ended before the

"I know all the other things ye have shown me. I know the world's silly with-a-beard shall not intercept them, creeds have made it mad, and it must as I have intercepted his men. When rend itself, and this man and I shall Rewa Gunga shall return and tell me reap where the nations sowed-if only he saw my letter on its way down the we obey! Wherein ye old dear gods. Khyber, then we shall talk againwho love me, did these two disobey? I pray you, tell me in a vision !" She took his arm, as if her threats

She shook her head and sighed. Sadness seemed to have crept over her. like a cold mist from the night. It was as if she could dimly see her plans foredoomed, and yet hoped on in spite of it. The fatalism that she scorned as Muhammad's lie held her and dipped it in the ink, she was in its grip, and her natural courage chuckling to herself as if the one good fought with it. Womanlike, she turned to King in that minute and confided to She wrote in Urdu, with an ensy, him her very inmost thoughts. And he, flowing hand, and in two minutes she without an inkling as to how she must were too wise. A jihad was decided had thrown sand on the letter and had fail, yet knew that she must, and pitied

"Have you seen that breast under the armor?" she asked suddenly. Your Captain King has been too much "Come nearer! Come and look! Did men, but ten times that number busily engaged. Why bargain when there was no need? A rife is what the te called himself Kurram Khan. He slew called himself Kurram Khan. He slew his own brother at night in the Khyber pass. These men will say that he car-it always. I think that scent is the ried the head to Khinjan, and their word preservative. Athelstan-listen! I is true, for I. Yasmini, saw. He used the think he would have failed her! head for a passport, to obtain admittance. He proclaims a jihad! He urges invasion think she stabbed him rather than see does not come in by submarine. The sirkar knows how much of everything goes up the Khyber. I have seen the printed lists myself—a few hundred he will be leading a jihad into India. You death dies too! He looks grim because he knew less than she. It is al-He read it and passed it back to her. ways woman who understands and "They will not disbelieve me," she man who fails! I think she stabbed caves going for a day. Where does it said, triumphant as the very devil over him. She should have loved him beta brandered soul all hot. "They will ter, and then there would have been She laughed, as a mother laughs at be sure you are mad, and they will no need. I will love you better than she loved him!"

> "Rewa Gunga shall start with this She turned and devoured him with slave that minute. For in that min-

> > ute she left no charm unexercised-

flatter a huntsman)-grace unutterable

me, so I told the sirkar some-not much, indeed, but enough-of the things he and his officers had told me. And the sirkar said at once that there and he must go home! His officers laughed behind his back. Ever since that time there have always been Germans in communication with me, and I have not once been in the dark about Germany's plans-although they have always thought I am in the dark.

"I went on looking for my man. There came that old Bull-with-a-beard. Muhammad Anim. He thinks he is the



"The Old Gods Who Built These Caves in the 'Hills' Are Laughing! They Are Getting Ready! Thou and I-"

mote will to will wrongly than any a cave containing great forges, where now I am not sure.

"From all the men I met and watched I have learned all they knew!

"Why bid me throw it to them. then?" he asked her, and he was aware of her scorn before the words had left dred thousand tons of rock on top of his lips.

She leaned back again and looked at must study him all anew. She seemed to find it hard to believe that he really thought so in the commonplace.

"What is a head to me, or to youa head with no life in It-carrion !had thrown it to them when I ordered you?"

He understood. Some of her blood seen. was Russian, some Indian. She stood she on the footstool of the throne, her his eyes until he could see his own twin portraits in hers, that were glowing sunset pools. Heart of the Hills? ourn in her, rebellious!

"Are you believing me?" she asked

him.

He nodded, for no man could have helped believing her. As she knew the truth, she was telling it to him, her guards slept together with the And if any man has felt on his lips as surely as she was doing her skillful best to mesmerize him. But the brought with him up the Khyber. secret service is made up of men trained against that.

"Come !" she said, and stepping down she took his arm.

She led him past the thrones to other leather curtains in a wall, and through them into long hewn passages from cavern to cavern, until even the

man I ever met, except a German. I the bronze had been worked, with have even been sure sometimes that charcoal still plied up against the wall Earth's Drink. Muhammad Anim is a German; yet at one end. There were copper and tin

"I know where they came from," And I have never neglected to tell the she told him. "I made it my business sirkar sufficient of what men have told to know all the 'Hills.' I know things me, to keep the sirkar pleased with the hillmen's great-great-great-great-grand- fired. The heat came upward like a all she asked of admiration, kiss for sage into the outer chamber; and the me! It was fortunate that I knew of fathers forgot! I know old workings a German plot that I could spoil at the that would make a modern nation rich! last minute. A million dynamite We shall have money when we need Round and round that holocaust the right arm was like a stanchion. Be- innocence. Her perfume was like inhombs was a big haul for the sirkar! It, never fear! We shall conquer In- thousands did their sword-dance, yell- cause he knew that he, not she, was cense; her manner perfect reverence. My offer to go to Khinjan and keep the dia while the English backs are turned ing as the devils yelled at Khinjan's winning, he picked her up in his arms She passed into the cave where the 'Hills' quiet was accepted that same and the best troops are overseas." Then she called him her warrior and them. They were drunk with fanati- And then, because he knew he had ess performing a rite.

"Rut what are a million dynamite ber weil-beloved and took him down cism, frenzy, lust!

Will Butcher and Plunder and Burn! It Will Be What They Leave of India That We Shall Build Anew and Govern."

many to count! Women brought them oll in gold. No Afghan troubled why he was careless, and I sent my men to all the way from the sea, for even oll was needed, so long as gold paid steal the head from his men. I needed Muhammad Anim could not make for it. And I know where the Sleeper evidence for you. And I swear to you Afridi riflemen carry loads. I have dug his gold !" wondered what Bull-with-a-beard will They sat in slience for a long while brought us two together-that I first say when he misses his precious dyna- after that, she looking at the table. But is that all?"

> "You've enough in there to blow he thinking, with hands clasped round the least would be the collapse of this who can read thoughts that are not means that she looked less lovely. floor into the tunnel below with a hun- guarded. ounds like a king's name! What was

it. There is no other way out?" him through lowered eyes, as if she made a grimace that set her to laugh- a name in Rome?" ing.

But she looked at him darkly after that and he got the impression that the him. thought was not new to her, and that she did not thank him for the advice. compared to what shall be? Would He began to wonder whether there you have known it was his head if you was anything she had not thought ofany loophole she had left him for when I need one! Slow of resolution, escape-any issue she had not fore- art thou? I will speed thy resolution,

She showed him where eleven hunup, and of course he stood up, too. So, dred Mauser rifles stood in racks in regiment, to Kurram Khan. Change Come!" another cave, with boxes of ammuni- now into my warrior-my dear lordeyes and his were on a level. She laid tion piled beside them-each rifle and my King again!" hands on his shoulders and looked into cartridge worth its weight in silver coin-a very rajah's ransom!

"The Germans are generous in some things-only in some things-very pressed in a movement. Her eyes melt-The heart of all the East seemed to mean in others !" she told him. "They ed as they met his. And since he stood sent no medical stores, and no blan- up, too, for manner's sake, they were kets !"

Past caves where provisions of ev. Her sweet breath was in his nostrils. ery imaginable kind were stored, sufficient for an army, she led him to where arms, clinging to him, kissing him. thirty special men whom King had the kiss of all the scented glamour of "I have five hundred others whom I sations were. Let Caesar, who was dare trust to come in here," she said, kissed by Cleopatra, come to life and "but they shall stay outside until I talk of it!

want them. A mystery is a good thing! It is good for them all to wonder what stand like an idol. His head might I keep in here! It is good to keep this swim, but she, too, tasted the delirium sanctuary: it makes for power!" Pressing very close to him, she a mad, swift minute. If his heart Rock of Gibraltar seemed like a doll's guided him down another dark tunnel swelled to bursting, so must hers have man, having more strength to hope and house in comparison. She showed him until he and she stood together in the done. jaws of the round hole above the

river, looking down into the Cavern of "I have been all alone! I have needed you !" Nobody looked up at them. The ingots in there of a shape he had never thousands were too busy working up a neither spoke. frenzy for the great jihad that was to

> come. Stacks of wood had been piled up, she, was winning. The human answer six-man high in the middle, and then to her appeal was full. He gave her

have lived for centuries by pressing still for a moment, watching his eyes, oil for Khinjan caves," she said. "The at a loss to understand his careless-Sleeper fetched his oil thence. The ness. He seemed strangely unabased, sex - mesmerism - beauty - flattery Sleeper left gold in here. Those who His folded arms were not defiant, but (her eyes could flatter as a dumb dog's kept the Sleeper's secret paid for the neither were they yielding.

"I love you, Athelstan!" she said. "Do you love me?"

would have better trusted me. YASMINL

"I think you are very beautiful, princess!"

"Beautiful? I know I am beautiful.

with its ink and pens and paper, and "Clever !" he added.

She began to drum with the golden "If somebody fired a pistol in here, to talk, even when a woman is near dangerous, which is not to infer by any

"Do you love me?" she asked. "Forgive me, princess, but you forget. I was born east of Mecca, but my "Earth's Drink !" she said, and he the Sleeper's name? Was there such folk were from the West. We are slower to love than some other nations. With us love is more often growth, less "What does it mean?" she asked often surrender at first sight. I think you are wonderful !"

She nodded and tucked the sealed letter in her bosom.

"Another sign!" she laughed. "The "It shall go," she said darkly, "and gods love me! There always is a sign another letter with it. They looted your brother's body. In his pocket they found the note you wrote him, and that well-beloved! You were quick to you asked him to destroy! That will be evidence. That will convince! change from King, of the Khyber Rifle

> He followed her through leather curtains again and down the dark pas-



furnace blast, and the smoke was a kiss. And then-her arms did not illusion was of walking behind a gold- come. great red cloud among the stalactites. cling so tightly, although his strong en-haired Madonna to some shrine of

birth. They needed no wine to craze and kissed her as if she were a child. two dead bodies lay like a high priest-

-mystery-she used every art on him she knew. Yet he stood the test. "Even if you fail me, well-beloved, I will love you! The gods who gave you me will know how to make you love; and lessons are to learn. If you fail me I will forgive, knowing that in the end the gods will never let you fall me! You are mine, and earth is ours, for the old gods intend it so!"

She seemed to expect him to take her in his arms again; but he stood respectfully and made no answer, nor any move. Grim and strong his jowl was, like the Sleeper's, and the dark hair three days old on it softened nothing of its lines. His Roman nose and steady, dark, full eyes suggested no compromise. Yet he was good to look at. She had not lied when she said she loved him, and he understood her and was sorry. But he did not look sorry, nor did he offer any argument to quench her love. He was a servant of the raj; his life and his love had been India's since the day he first buckled on his spurs, and Yasmini would not have understood that.

Nor did she understand that, even supposing he had loved her with all his heart, not on any conditions would he have admitted it until absolutely free. any more than that if she crucified him he would love her the same, supposing that he loved her at all. Nor did she trust the "old gods" too well, or let them work unaided.

"Come with me, Atheistan !" she said. She took his arm-found little jeweled slippers in a closet hewn in the wallput them on and led him to the curtains he had entered by. She led down the steps, and at the foot told him to put on his slippers, as if he vere a child. Then, hurrying as if those opal eye: of hers were indifferent to dark or daylight, she picked her way among bowlders that he could feel but not see, along a floor that was only smooth in places, for a distance that was long enough by two or three times to lose him altogether. When he looked back there was no sign of red lights behind him. And when he looked forward, there was a dim outer light in front and a whiff of the cool fresh air that presages the dawn !

She led him through a gap on to a ledge of rock that hung thousands of feet above the home of thunder. a ledge less than six feet wide, less than twenty long, tilted back toward the cliff. There they sat, watching the stars. And there they saw the dawn

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

'Arking Back. The Vicar-What a dreadful plague of calerpillars, John ! John-Ah; an' 'oo let loose the first

I won, he set her on her feet on the foot- | Walking to the bed, she stood for pair of 'em? Nouth !-- Sketch,

the East, let him tell what King's sen-