The Tracer of Egos

Chronicles of Dr. Phileas Immanuel, Soul Specialist By VICTOR ROUSSEAU

MR. AXEL'S SHADY PAST

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of a duke and sister of a viscount, she pulsive Lady Sibyl. played innumerable roles with distincthe aversion of the next. She had been vaccinationist and anti-vivisectionist, aim is to stir up strife." vegetarian and sandal wearer; but now she was bent upon becoming a anti-militarist convictions to secure a Mormon. It was the first time that wealthy convert," put in the ambasher whim had taken a religious turn. and her uncle, the duke of Surrey, was greatly distressed.

"If only it were anything else," he said to Doctor Immanuel, "I wouldn't care. I know it would wear off in the course of time, but when the poor child wakes up in Utah, to find herwives, what are we going to do for

The old duke, who was a staunch views about many subjects. Mor- combativeness in her presence?" monism was one of them, and he was leading the agitation for the expul-England. Doctor Immanuel and I had idly. met him at the annual garden party given by Noureddin Bey, the Turkish ambassador, with whom the Greek physician had been intimately acquainted in his earlier days at Athens.

'The trouble with the modern woman is that there are not enough hus-Lands to go round," said Immanuel thoughtfully. "England has, I believe, a million and a half more women than men. In consequence, instead of finding her activities in her home, the Englishwoman is forced into men's sphere of action."

"O, come, doctor, you aren't going to propound those old-fashioned ideas in the twentieth century, are you?" asked the Turkish ambassador jokingly. Nevertheless he secretly agreed with him. Educated at Oxford and Heidelberg, and the husband matrons in London, he nevertheless felt in his heart that the old customs of his race were best.

"If we don't take care," said the old duke, "we shall evolve a race in which the female will be predominant everywhere, as with the bees."

"And, like the bees, they will massacre all the males every autumn," answered Doctor Immanuel, "but about Lady Sibyl-" he continued, drawing the duke aside. "I am sorry to hear that her mind is made up."

old gentleman. "She has fallen unday week. Nothing that we can say has the least influence over her. I even went so far as to attend one of with." Axel's Sunday assemblies at the Kensington Tabernacle. The man is us, doctor. Of course I don't pretend to believe in this reincarnation theory which you preach so relentlessly, but I do know that you have accomplished some wonderful things. You seem to have a kind of power over people. Dama you, sir, for all your crazy notions you have established your power over me. Can't you help the poor child, doctor?" the duke continued more seriously. "She must not sail with Axel. And she says she will propoganda." sail. Hello, my dear!"

The last words were addressed to gowned and shod.

"Why, Sibyl-you have met Doctor Immanuel, I believe, my dear?—as I seventh century, but there is no was saying, Sibyl, how about the sandals? I thought you were never going to wear shoes again."

"My dear uncle," said the young lady, patting the old man condescendingly upon the arm. "I still believe that shoes are contrary to the laws of important things in life for me to and justice-" spend my energies in a crusade against them. No! So long as war continues and nations massacre each other in the name of justice-"

"Hello, Sibyl! Are you anti-militarist now?"

"Yes, uncle, I am. Mr. Axel has shown me the horrors of war. He has convinced me that only the spread of the faith can bring peace among men. | ible-' When all nations are of one belief-"

"The Mormons, Sibyl?" "The Saints," answered the girl with a look of mild reproach. "But I see we are drifting round to the old topic and that, uncle, is naturally a oninful one, so I will not detain you." With that she was gone, and presently we saw her engaged in earnest conversation with the Turkish ambasador's wife, who was always sympathetically inclined toward any new

ADY Sibyl Smith was one of London," said the Turkish ambassa-England's typical new women. dor a little later. We had foregath-Seven and twenty years of age, ered again; somehow each one of us rich, handsome, gifted, the niece felt an interest in kindly, erratic, im-

"Yes," answered the duke in tones tion, and the craze of one week became of deep disgust. "But I never before heard that universal peace was what suffragette, teetotaller, Socialist, anti- his people sought. I should say their

"He has evidently played upon her sador.

"No, I wouldn't say that," said the old duke, with a reluctant fairness. "I think the man is sincere. But he's one of those men who can persuade themselves that anything they want is true-a most dangerous condition of mind. Some of our Radical statesmen self one of a happy family of fifty have it," he continued. The duke was violently Conservative.

"Then," I suggested, "if Lady Sibyl is drawn toward the Mormons beadherent of the Low Church party, cause she thinks they will establish held rigid and perhaps exaggerated peace, why not provoke Axel into

The duke stared at me but did not answer. He was deeply distressed, sion of the Mormon missionaries from and my words had passed him by

> "It is curious," said Doctor Immanuel, "that the true meaning of Mormonism is not apparent. May I say without offense to you, Nourreddin Bey, that the Mormons are simply the ancient Mohammedans come back to earth?"

> "O, you won't hurt my feelings," answered Noureddin Bey, laughing. "But I confess that I don't see the parallel."

"You mean that Mohammed was reincarnated as Joseph Smith?" asked the duke. "It is fascinatingly prepos-

"On the contrary, the paralled is so close that I cannot see how any reasonable man can doubt it," Immanuel answered. "It holds in every instance. Mohammed came, as Smith came, at a time when the old beliefs were breaking down. Each taught a creed comof one of the most popular society posed of a hodge-podge of Judaism and Christianity. Each had a special revelation from an angel, who gave him the text for his sacred book. Each was said to be epileptic. Each was driven out of his home town into a desert country and established a militant nation there. And mark my words, gentlemen, in Mormonism America and the world have to face the greatest peril that the next century will bring."

"And each taught polygamy," said the duke thoughtfully. "But I un-"Unfortunately it is," answered the derstand that the Saints have ceased to advocate that doctrine. Confound der the influence of Axel, the Mor. it-my poor Sibyl! Once they get her mon missionary, and sails with a to Utah God knows what they'll do party of converts for Utah on Satur. with her. The fanatic who masquerades as a reasonable man of the world is the hardest type to deal

"Your theory is very interesting, doctor," said Noureddin Bey. "Can't a magnetic personality, a wonderful you come to the rescue then? Can't speaker. The plain truth is that he you hypnotize this Axel and show him tas hypnotized her. I wonder-" he up as a desert savage reborn? I conhesitated-"I wonder if you could help fess that in a loose white robe and a turban he would present a picture not calculated to inspire his latest con-

Immanuel did not answer, but presently he managed adroitly to bring me into conversation with the object of our solicitude.

"I hear you sail for America shortly;" I said to her.

"Yes," she answered. "For Salt Lake City, the headquarters of the

"Lady Sibyl," said Immanuel very earnestly, "do you understand the no other than the Lady Sibyl herself, real meaning of Mormonism? My who suddenly appeared, radiant un- dear girl, you are dreadfully deceived. der a large picture hat, immaculately The Mormons are nothing but the early Mohammedans reborn on earth. There was some use for them in the earthly use now. They are essentially a throw-back, an anachronism-"

"O, I've heard of your doctrines," laughed Lady Sibyl, "and you can't hurt my feelings. Mr. Axel is a peace lover. He is sadly misrepresented. He wants to bring all the world under hire a room." nature. But there are too many more his faith, to establish peace, liberty

"Your Mr. Axel," answered the doctor brusquely, "is, I have every reason to believe, a certain Hajid, who, in the year 689, was sent to make converts of a Christian tribe living in the Lebanon, and, failing to win them, ruthlessly massacred seven hundred men, women and children, in cold blood. He was a smooth, plaus-

"That's quite enough, Doctor Immanuel," answered Lady Sibyl angrily. "If you had ever come to our meet-

"Well, I'll make a bargain with you. I'll come to your meeting next house in the time of Mohammed, with Sunday if you'll allow me to offer you evidence as to the truth of what I have said. Are you open to conviction?"

"I am always open to conviction,"

No more was said, but that eve- hypnotized man, who is ready to heaven on earth in the alkali wastes sionary was swaying backward and Immanuel outlined to me his plan. "It is a desperate chance," he said.

and I confess I am not altogether duke?" sanguine of success. But it is worth trying. I fancy that the main trouble with Lady Sibyl is that she is an idealist; she knows nothing of life, with its She has always lived in the exalted region of the intellect. If she could see this Axel as an infuriated savage I think the shock would produce an intense reaction. Now I have been to his meetings, for the psychology of conversion has a great attraction for me. He is a magnetic speaker, one who is what we call 'carried today week, and he will be wrought away.' When he preaches he is actually self-hypnotized. He says that he speaks as the spirit directs him, and I have not the slightest doubt that he is, at such moments, largely dominated by his former self-or role, rather, for the self does not change. Do you know the Kensington Tabernacle?"

"No," I answered. "It is a large room, fitted up for meetings of a religious or secular character. It occupies the central portion of the building, and radiating found her housed in a large building, out of it are numerous smaller rooms, the headquarters of the humanitarian to scientific and learned societies nected, and about ten minutes' walk which hold their regular meetings there. Now here is my plan: if we can rent one of these rooms and make man present, and I had an unmistakit the setting for our drama, and bring Axel in there while he is still there had been something of a scene under the emotional influence of his sermon, self-hypnotized, that is to say, it is possible that we may capman to Lady Sibyl."

Hajid," I said.

there's more to come. I have been America." talking with Noureddin. I recollect that, when we were in Athens togeth- out the young man in passionate

ning, as we sat in our rooms, Doctor swear that a chair is a steamship if of Utah. he is told so." "And who will be present? The

"No. He says he has had enough of Axel and has done all he could, not necessarily from a worldly point and feels no further responsibility if of view, for, to do the man justice, his niece chooses to make a fool of he was quite sincere, but as a bell crudeness, its cruelties, its passions. herself. You and I and the ambassador and Lady Sibyl, who, by the way, is as ignorant as Axel of the trick we propose to play."

"And the plan is-?" "To bring them into the room immediately Axel has finished his sermon. It is to be his farewell address, you know, for he sails for America up, no doubt, and in prime condition for the experiment. By the way, Lady Sibyl will be waiting for us to call at her rooms on Sunday evening and escort her to the meeting."

"Rooms? She doesn't live with her folks then?"

"O dear, no. She is a member of some sisterhood now, pledged to improve the world. Poor child; she is

thoroughly unpractical in everything." At seven o'clock on the Sunday night we called for Lady Sibyl. We which are also rented for the night association with which she was confrom the Tabernacle. She was not alone, however, for there was a young able impression, when I entered, that between the two.

"Allow me to introduce Mr. Carruthers," said Lady Sibyl to us. "Anture the elusive Hajid, bring him to other of my well-wishers," she added the surface, and so display the real acidly, and I perceived that the acidity of her tones was meant to con-"There wasn't much peacefulness in | ceal some strong emotional stress. "Mr. Carruthers, like my uncle, "No, and there isn't in Axel. But wishes to dissuade me from going to

"I would to heaven I could," burst



SAID THE DOCTOR AGAIN, BUT NOW IN ENGLISH, "YOU HAVE BEEN HIDDEN TOO LONG; COME FORTH!"

weapon in time to make it the piece step with me. de resistance for our little dramathink of it, a sword which Hajid himself had doubtless often seen, which must have impressed itself indelibly upon his memory!-he may remember it. Are there not old Greek stories of heroes who recognized estly. swords hanging in temples which they had wielded in former lives? One doesn't forget a sword when one has been a soldier. Anyway, Noureddin is sending one of his secretaries to Paris with an order for it this evening, and there is every hope that by next Sunday we will be able to have ders." it in place. And now, excuse me, for I must write to the Tabernacle to

It was not Doctor Immanuel's habit to talk much while his plans were maturing, and from the absence of any further discussion of the subject I drew favorable conclusions. It was not until the evening of the following Saturday that he alluded to the matter again.

"Well," he began, removing his pipe from his mouth, "the sword has arrived and is now safely housed, or rather suspended from the wall in Room 17 of the Tabernacle."

stage setting completed?" "Everything. It is the exact reproby our friend Noureddin-pillows. portant, the sacred sword, which

er, he used to own a famous old | tones. Of a sudden I became aware sword, said to have belonged to the as though Lady Sibyl herself had told prophet Mohammed himself, and an me, that he was her lover. I gathered heirloom in his family. I asked him that she had broken the engagement where it was and he tells me that it in order to follow Axel to Salt Lake is in Paris, with some of his stored City. As we started toward the too low for me to catch the words. property. Now if we can get that Tabernacle young Carruthers fell into "Do you know this Axel?" he asked.

"Do you know what he preaches?" "He is a regular Mormon missionary, I believe," I answered.

"Are you in sympathy with this project of Lady Sibyl?" he asked earn-

"No," I said, "I am not. Why?" ing to see him tonight, and when he has finished his meeting, which I don't want to disturb, I am going to take him by the throat and shake his cursed head off his counfounded shoul-

the same purpose," I answered. "So don't do anything rash, because wa may succeed by milder measures."

not ask what our measures were. Soon afterward we were at the doors of the Tabernacle, and I presently found ourselves accommodated, with several other disciples and converts, upon the platform from which Axel was to speak. In front of us were long lines of benches, which gradually filled with attendants. They were poor people, for the most part, and had in their eyes that look of pa-"Good," I answered. "You have the tient, hopeless misery which one meets among the lower classes of London. To these souls, struggling Turkish ambassador, whom I had recduction of the interior of a Syrian against the hard material tyranny of ognized on the platform, attired in their daily lives, unillumined by any divans, skins-loaned for the occasion spark of hope, it was evident that the desirous of concealing his identity, gospel of Axel had come with the smiled slightly at me, as though in ing a slightly inferior product. Tragaantique vessels from the ambassa- force of a stunning revelation. I dor's house, and, last but most im- could easily imagine such people converted into fanatics and martyrs, at Axel. answered Lady Sibyl. "And I hope hangs suspended by a skein of cam- ready to shed their blood for the you are. Do come, doctor, and join el's hair over the couch of honor. It cause he preached, anxious to build toe, had placed his hands upon the "This Axel seems to have stirred our party for Utah on Saturday week." is crude, but it is good enough for a up the new commonwealth, the new great fellow's shoulders, and the mis- cles is A. Brauntonil.

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Lady Sibyl was the only person there who was even moderately well gowned. I began to understand now how much her belief meant to Axel, wether for his precious flock.

Then Axel came in from a private room, and when I set eyes on the man I knew that I was in the presence of one of those who are the mainstay of every cause; the men of intense will, purpose, and conviction who make martyrs and prophets. He might have stepped out of the desert and put on modern clothes, for he was brown and muscular as an Arab, his closely cropped hair was of a deep, lustrous black, and his black beard, ragged and uncombed, swept down over his breast. He moved as though he were "strung": it was evident that he was prepared to make a thrilling appeal and .challenge to his auditors; and as he entered and stepped lightly on the platform, acknowledging the greeting of those present by a curt, absent-minded nod, I heard murmurs of worship from the sordid figures upon the benches and saw the sunken eyes grow bright and the bent figures straighten. Then he was upon the platform and the services had be-

It is no part of my task to deride the Mormon service. Except for the shocking incongruity, as it seemed to me, of introducing the name of Joseph Smith into the hymns, it might have been any religious service and was conducted with perfect decorum. But, the prayers ended, Axel began to speak, and though I have heard many speakers I have never heard one who impressed me so forcibly. It was not elegance of diction, for his grammar was as free as his eloquent gestures; it was not that he had the gift of the great orator; rather it seemed to be some magnetic force proceeding from the man. It sword, began to drag her round the almost carried me away. I closed my eves and listened with rapture. could well understand how he could bend Lady Sibyl to his sway, to say

nothing of those others. He announced the end of his missionary campaign and pleaded, pleaded with his auditors to renounce the world and follow him and his band to far off Utah, to build up the nation of peace and righteousness.

Immanuel said something which sounded like Amen. But it was not had released Lady Sibyl and had him Amen.

speaker as a whip stings a nervous. high-spirited horse. He started, cast peared. a glance at the doctor, and then proceeded with more abandon than before. His words poured like a lava interval Immanuel spoke again. This time there was no mistaking his word. They were "Allah il-Allah."

And Axel seemed to lean toward him; he swung round, facing him, and thumped his fist upon the desk and flung his arms aloft, as an ancient prophet might have done, denouncing Baal. I understood the doctor's purpose. He was beginning to recall to him the scene which was afterward to be burned into his brain. for the purpose of awakening his forgotten self.

me with brimming eyes.

"Isn't he wonderful?" she said. "O, sobbed. doctor, can't you believe now? Who else is he but a prophet of God?"

arisen and was standing immediately sion. in front of Axel, staring into his eyes. It was a strange contrast; the uel," said the Turkish ambassador preacher, built in the mold of a the next day. "You hypnotized him hero, and the little Greek doctor, with and told him he was an Arab-that's his face upturned, and his mild all. You can't prove that he was an brown eyes, just now fixed sternly Arab, you know." upon those of the other.

"Come!" said the doctor, and he placed his arm within the preacher's. He said something more, but it was Whether it was English or Arabic I free?" do not know, but I felt that their two wills had met in combat and that the doctor had conquered. It seemed as though Axel were actually in a hypnotic condition, for he followed Immanuel without seeing any of his admirers, brushing them away, and went like a lamb in the direction of Room 17, and we all followed. Then "Because," he answered, "I am go- Immanuel threw open the door and we trooped in, and somebody-Carruthers, I think- closed it, and we were inside a Syrian house.

It was like one of those little reproductions of foreign scenery that one encounters at expositions; it was at "Ah-well, we are going for much once genuine and yet unreal. The couches, with their Oriental coverings, were such as might have been seen in any home; the rugs were He looked at me hopefully but did from the ambassador's own reception rooms, where I myself had seen them; the leopard skins, too, that sees in furriers' shops. It did not imly grotesque and ornate.

Above our heads the sword, the a slight oscillating movement from its support of woven camel hair.

I saw Lady Sibyl look at the room in surprise; Carruthers glanced at each of us, not understanding; the rather rough clothes, and evidently deprecation of the stage setting. But

Doctor Immanuel, standing on tip-

forward, and staring into the doctor's

"Hajid!" said Immanuel, and then followed some Arabic words whose

meaning I did not know. Axel stopped rocking and his whole body became rigid as steel. His hands fell to his sides, his arms stif-

fened. "Hajid!" said the doctor again, but now in English. "You have been hidden too long. Come forth!"

"What is the meaning of this tomfoolery?" exclaimed Lady Sibyl indignantly. "Mr. Axel--"

"Speak to him, madam," said Immanuel blandly. "You will have hard work to find him." He addressed the figure again, "Hajid! I command you to come forth. Where have you been all these years?"

The syllables fell haltingly and gutturally from Axel's lips.

"To the Beni-Mizroum of the Great Mountain." he answered heavily. "They would not embrace the faith taught by the prophet. Therefore I fulfilled my master's command."

"What did you do, Hajid??" asked the Greek doctor.

"I slew them-five hundred of them grown men and children."

"And the women?"

"The women we carried away for wives."

"You monster!" exclaimed Lady Sibyl's indignant voice. "Mr. Axel, I mean-what are you saying? O, he

has gone insane!" "Look up, Hajid," said Doctor Immanuel, "and tell me what you see." He raised his head and his eyes fell upon the yataghan. Instantly, it seemed, pandemonium was let loose. He sprang for the blade, seized it, and brandished it, shouting unintelligibly in Arabic. With his disheveled clothes, his sweeping beard, his bloodshot eyes and fearful yells, he seemed like a demented man. He sprang at Lady Sibyl, clutched her by the hair, and, still flourishing the room.

Carruthers leaped at him; Immanuel seized his arm and shouted, but he was beyond the reach of words. We fought all round the room, stumbling over the rugs and the couch coverings, bruising ourselves against the walls; his strength was about equal to the combined strength of us all, and the most we could achieve was to prevent him from wounding any of us with the sword. At last we down, pinned under our united weight. The sound seemed to sting the Just at that moment the door was flung open and two policemen ap-

"It's Mr. Axel, the missionary. He has gone mad!" panted the Turkish ambassador. I recollect that he was torrent from his mouth. In the next | seated on Axel's head, and I remembered that that is what we do to horses, to keep them still when they have fallen.

They got his hands into the handcuffs, and somebody procured an ambulance. The crowd outside the hall filled the street. The evening newspapers brought out special editions which were shouted all over London. When at last we found ourselves alone Lady Sibyl collapsed into Carruther's arms.

"What a terrible experience!" she moaned. "O, Raby, can you ever for-Axel ended in a thunder of ap- give me? To think that I was so near plause. His auditors sprang from their to sailing with a maniac! Why, he seats and cheered, ran forward, sur- might have murdered me. And he rounded him. Lady Sibyl looked at pulled out a great handful of hair, and mine is none too thick," she

To my mind this tardy awakening to the virtues of beauty was the most Then I saw that Immanuel had hopeful sign of Lady Sibyl's conver-

"But that proves nothing, Imman-

"The proof," said Immanuel blandly. "rests with you. I have pragmatically proved my case, for I have saved Lady Sibyl. Do you think she'll fall into his clutches again when he gets

"Not if Carruthers knows it," answered. Noureddin Bey. "I fancy, too, that the man is thoroughly discredited now. To be taken raving to an insane asylum would discredit any prophet in the modern world. Besides, don't you know that Lady Sibyl is growing enthusiastic about the mixed nut diet?"

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Look Out for Fire.

If you camp on state lands or a national forest reserve, be sure to look up the local regulations concerning fires, as they vary considerably in different states. Violators are subject to arrest, but the good camper will keep strictly to the letter of the law and avoid trouble. Above all, be sure that all fires are extinguished before leaving camp, even for the day. Smokers should be particularly careful not to strewed the floor, were such as one drop a lighted match or cigar butt, or even the hot dottel from a pipe. Horpress me as spectacular-it was mere ace Kephart says, speaking of forest fires: "The person whose carelessness starts such a holocaust is worse than a yataghan of the prophet, swung with fool-he is a criminal, and a disgrace to the good earth he treads." These are strong words, but well deserved .-

Gum Arabic.

Gum arabic naturally exudes from the bark of Acacia Senegal, a tree nutive to North Africa. Other species of Acacia are drawn upon, though yieldcanth is from shrubs of Astragalus, a the next moment we were all looking native of Asia. While Astragalus is common in western America none of them seems to be of value for tragacanth. The most shrubby local spe-