

Tigris, which springs from the Armenian Taurus, not far from Telek on the Euphrates. Here Nineveh flourished, the capital of Sennacherib, Esarhaddon, and Sardanapalus, and in Ctesiphon, Parthians, Romans, Sassanids, and Arabs ruled in succession; but of this former splendour nothing is left but the ruins of Tak-kesra, which shows its beautiful arch in all directions as one slowly ascends the Tigris in the steamboat. And over against it, on the right bank, rises one of the populous towns of old times—Seleucia, founded by Seleucus I. Nicator, and destroyed during the campaign of Trajan in the year 162. Still to-day both the rivers have their towns of high reputation in the East. Bagdad, Dar-es-Salaam, the “place of blessing,” capital of the Abbasid khalifs, founded in the year 763 by Almanzor, attained in the ninth century, under Harun-al-Rashid, to the height of its renown, which, thanks to the tales of the *Thousand and One Nights*, is not yet extinguished. Here, too, in the course of ages a succession of conquerors and monarchies succeeded one another. In the year 1258 Bagdad was taken by Hulagu Khan, grandson of Jenghis Khan, a hundred and forty years later by Timur the Lame, at the beginning of the sixteenth century by Shah Ismail of Persia, and in 1638 by the Sultan Murad IV. The town is still in Turkish hands, Nadir Shah, elsewhere victorious, having failed in his attempt to again annex Bagdad to Persia. Now, Bagdad is a commercial town of little importance, which, however, when the Bagdad railway is completed along the Euphrates to Basra and Koweit, may look forward to revived prosperity and become an important point on the way between Europe and India. Still more famous than Bagdad, at least in Persia, is Kerbela, not far from the right bank of the Euphrates, for hither crowds of Shiite pilgrims flock, both living and dead, to pay respect to the grave of Hussein, and sleep in its precincts. He was the second son of Ali, the fourth khalif, and perished in battle against the Ommeyyads in the year 680.

These, then, are grand memories which haunt the banks of the Euphrates, going back to the greyest antiquity, to the first historical appearance of the human