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## The Caliph's Sister: Harun Al-Rashid and the Fall of the Persians

By Jurji Zaidan

Zaidan Foundation, Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 240 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 5.9in. x 0.9in. It is 803 AD in Baghdad in the closing years of the glorious reign of the Caliph Harun al-Rashid best known in the western world as the caliph whose court is described in the Arabian Nights. His reign represented the peak of Abbasid power in a caliphate full of pomp, splendor and learning that is often seen as the golden age of Islamic civilization. Harun al-Rashid was a popular ruler who relied on the Barmakis, the Persian administrators to run the Abbasid Empire. Romance and intrigue provide the central plot of the novel that is woven into the broader picture of the fall of the Barmakis. Chief among the Barmakis was Harun's best friend and vizier, Jafar. Harun held his sister Abbasa in great affection and loved to spend his evenings in her company. But his favorite companion was Jafar. It was quite unsuitable for a man from outside the family to be admitted to the company of a young woman, but Harun found a way to arrange things; he decided to marry them in what the French call a *mariage blanc*. As he explained...

### Reviews

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