

Acrimu-Al-Hirrah! - Respect the Cat!

*Hast heard the story, how one summer's day,
Within a mosque, a cat once hap'd to stray,
Just at the time God's prophet had gone there,
To make, as was his wont, his Zohar prayer?
With measured tread, it step'd with noiseless feet,
And, 'fore God's prophet, calmly took its seat,
And purring gently, sat there calm and still,
Afraid of naught, suspicious of no ill,
When lo! by Allah's will, e'er wise and good,
The cat was seized with pains of motherhood,
And 'twixt its pangs, common to all of earth,
There in the mosque, to kittens three gave birth.
'Remove the brute!' then loudly one did cry,
'To thus pollute the mosque, sure it should die.'
'Say not such words,' God's prophet then did say,
'Remove it not, in peace let it here stay,
Do not a thing in feelings now to jar,*

Respect the cat, acrimú-al-hirrah!
This cat hath only done that which it should
And hath performed its work of motherhood,
What Allah hath decreed for all the race,
As Nature's law, sure can be no disgrace;
And Muslims, learn from this the lesson that
Allah doth teach to all, Respect the cat!
Thy father honour, and thy brother love,
Protect thy sister, but of all above,
Respect thy mother, she it was who bore
Thee in the womb, and lavished on thee care
Known but to Allah; Muslims think of that,
The cat a mother is, Respect the cat!

Mustafa Leon (1914)