

# LAND WITHOUT LAUGHTER

*by*

Ahmad Kamal

“Walled cities, scimitars, armored warriors, mounted hordes—Tataristan (Sinkiang) holds all of these *today!*”

“In the veins of the men of Tataristan courses the blood of Mongol, Hun, Macedonian and Chinese . . . the tenacity of Genghis Khan and the ferocity of Attila’s and Alexander’s armies . . . the fanaticism of Saladin’s and Tamerlane’s *Islam*, and a rich heritage of Chinese wile.”

This is the land and these are the countrymen of Ahmad Kamal’s ancestors. A Muslim of Tartar stock, Mr. Kamal was born in America. His great-grandfather had fought against the Russians in Central Asia. Now, more than a century later, his American descendant was to return and renew the battle. Kamal entered Turkestan through India and Tibet, cross-

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AHMAD KAMAL

AUTHOR OF

*The Seven Questions of Timur*

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A



To  
MY MOTHER

*Who by her unflagging confidence  
inspired this work*

*And to*  
NURBEBE JAN

*Where she walked there was light  
And in her touch was proof of her perfection.  
for she was also mortal*

## *Book One*

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*"My religion," said Lao Tze, "is to think the unthinkable thought, to speak the ineffable word, to do the impossible deed and to walk the impassable way."*



THE AUTHOR, WHOSHER AKHUN, AND ABDUL AKHUN