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Taking It Off in the Mideast

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Abstract: The author explores the concept of democracy and the impact of financial, moral, and sexual corruption in the Middle East.

Tunisia. Egypt. Bahrain. Yemen. Libya. Sudan. Morocco. Iran. Algeria. Iraq. They're all dancing tonight. Dollar bills flutter towards Tunisia and Egypt bespattered only with drops of blood. Nature red in tooth and claw ravages the naked face of Libya for a c-note and a fin. As for the others, we jig, we amble, we lisp, and nickname God's creatures, and make out wantonness our ignorance (Shakespeare, Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1). We each hunch down with mouths agape and eyes begoggled. Alcohol calls its last call; the lap dance laps its last dribbling droplets. And as the lights come on? We find ourselves in space and time tonguing ears and necks and the harlot's cheek, no longer beautied with plast'ring art (Shakespeare, Hamlet, Act III, Scene 1) but corrupted and bitter shedding the remains of fleshly crumbs. "Then summoning the wild courage of despair, a throng of [us reveling]...seizing...[each] mummer, ... tall ... erect and motionless within the shadow of the ebony clock, gasped in unutterable horror at finding the grave cerements and corpse-like mask, which they handled with so violent a rudeness, untenanted by any tangible form...And the life of the ebony clock went out...And the flames of the tripods expired. And Darkness and Decay and the Red Death held illimitable dominion over all" (Poe, The mask of the red death: A fantasy, 1842). Behold the stench as democracy cavorts in the nude for the sightless. Until the next high couture spotlighting ecdysis by ecdysiasts. For us, the paying customers.

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