



THE GREAT MARCH

ROSE G. LURIE

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THE GREAT MARCH

POST-BIBLICAL JEWISH STORIES BOOK I

**BY
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1931

The Great March by Rose G. Lurie.

This edition was created and published by Global Grey

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*But the dust of the ruined Temple
As a treasure of beauty I prize."*²

When he finished reading, one of the boys said:

"Beautiful poems—but how will that help you pass the exam?"

"That's true," sighed Judah. "Thinking and dreaming and writing of the Holy Land won't help me pass the exams. And I do want to become a doctor. I shall earn a lot of money and then I shall go to my beloved city, Jerusalem."

Judah was graduated from college. He became a very successful doctor. He was so busy that he hardly found time to write poems to his beloved.

Years passed. Judah married and had one daughter. As soon as she could speak she, too, sang songs about Erets Israel.

One day when she was about eight years old, she suddenly turned to her father and said:

"Father, I've heard so much about Jerusalem, and I know so many songs and poems about it, but I have never seen Jerusalem. Won't we ever go there?"

Then Judah took her on his knee, and told her at her age, he had always played "Going to Jerusalem," and how he, too, had made up his mind that when he grew up he would surely go there.

"Oh, how I long to go there now!" he ended. "But all my brothers and sisters are here and my dear friends, too. I hate to leave them all. And besides, your mother doesn't want to go."

More years passed. Judah already had a grandchild, and even his grandchild kept on singing:

*"In the East, in the East,
Is my heart,
And I dwell in the end of the West.
All the beauties and treasures of Spain
Are just like the dust*

² Adapted from the translation by Emma Lazarus.

