
An Idealist of the Stars

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AN IDEALIST OF THE STARS

BY ALFRED TRUMBLE.

With original illustrations by Luis Faléro.

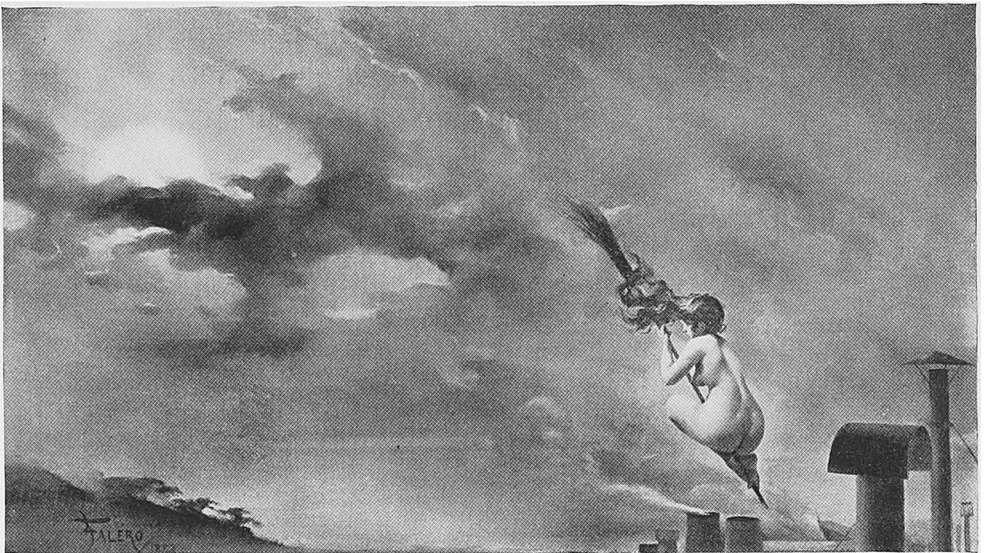
ONE of the most extraordinary artistic successes of modern times has been that of Luis Faléro, or Don Luis, as he is styled by his proud countrymen.

The story of his life, of which but little is generally known in America, is not uninteresting apart from his art. He was born at Grenada on May 23, 1851, and remains, in spite of his long residence in Paris, an Andalusian to the core. His finely framed head, black eyes, fiery expression, and the fashion in which he wears his hair and points his beard, render him even to this day rather a figure from a canvas by Velasquez than a man of the life around him.

Faléro was intended by his parents for the Spanish naval service. To this end he received a thorough technical education in England and France as well as in his native country, but at the end he abandoned the purpose, and became a cadet in the army of art. As he knew it would be useless to try to secure his father's consent to his new career, he left the naval school clandestinely and went to Paris, with so little money that he was forced to perform part of the journey on foot and only obtained the means to continue study by a lucky chance to make crayon portraits.

The curiously independent turn of his mind reflected itself in his works. He turned from his easel for relaxation to mathematical and scientific studies, and even dabbled in electricity. Astronomy engaged his attention also, and he had a passion for that class of literature in which the supernatural is the ruling force. Bearing these facts in mind, the direction his art took can be clearly understood.

Commencing with subjects of a semi-classical and conventional character, he rapidly advanced to those by which he became famous. The first of these to make

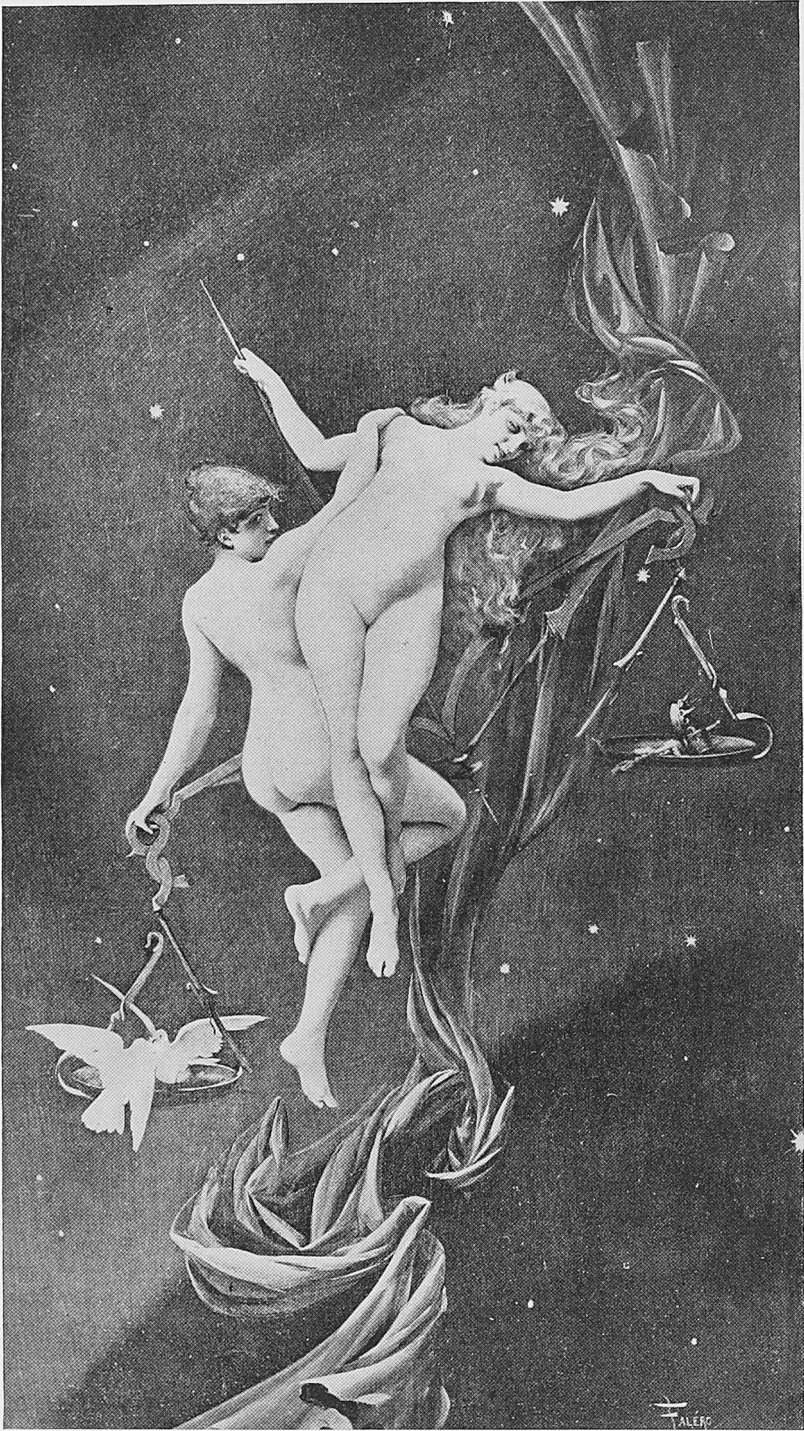


THE BELATED WITCH.



From a painting by Luis Faltro.

MARINA.



From a painting by Luis Falero.

THE BALANCE OF THE ZODIAC.



From a painting by Luis Falero.

THE PRAYER TO ISIS.

a hit was his "Witches Going to the Sabbath," and he followed it up with other themes of a similar kind, derived from "Faust" and the rest of his pet library of wonders. Then, at the Salon of 1881, appeared his "Twin Stars," which created a positive furor. "The Planet Venus," the "Balance of the Zodiac," "Shooting Stars" and a series of similar subjects, were varied by "The Opium Smoker," "The Prayer to Isis," "The Model" and so on, all pictures in a vein of sensuous



From a painting by Luis Falero.

LEO AND VIRGO.

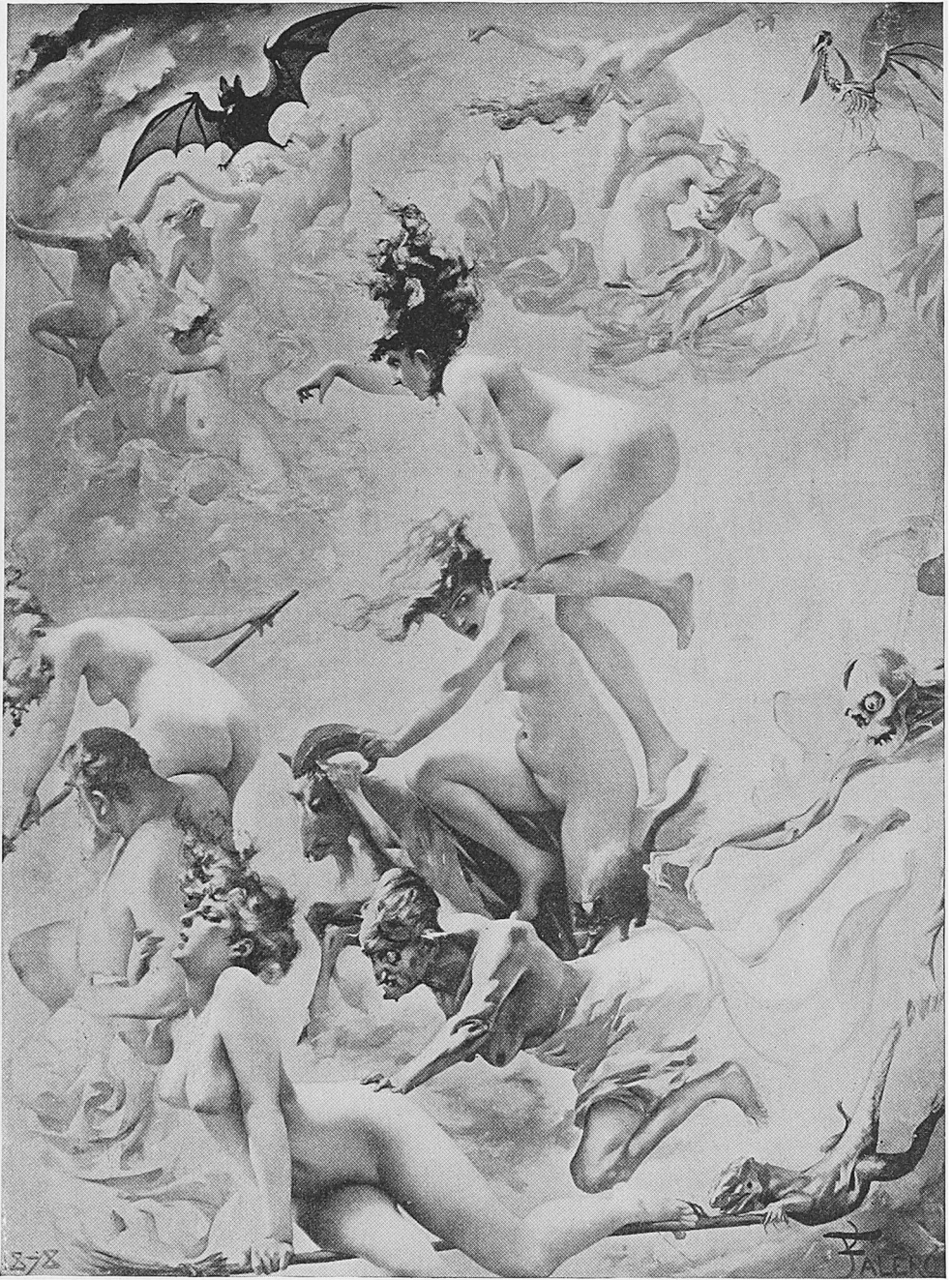
dreaminess, glorifications of the human form, an artistic incarnation of the splendors of palpitating flesh.

Falero is a colorist of great refinement, and a polished and finished executant. The character of his subjects and the beauty of their rendition have made his pictures famous throughout the world, but popularity has had no vulgarizing influence on him. He goes on as he began, faithful to his ideal. It is interesting to



From a painting by Luis Falero.

THE PLANET VENUS.



From a painting by Luis Falero.

WITCHES GOING TO THE SABBATH.

note, by the way, that "Faust's Dream," one of Falero's most famous pictures, and the one which, perhaps even more than the "Witches Going to the Sabbath," aided to confirm his reputation, has long been a part of a well-known and semi-public collection in New York City.