

The Mahometan Religion.

Analyses.

1st When and by whom founded.

2nd Its tenets.

3rd Those who believed in it.

4th Its progress.

5th Effects upon the people of Arabia

Since the foundation of the world, there have been many religions introduced all of which resembled each other in some of their tenets, save one, the Mahometan Religion, founded by Mahomet, from whom it derived its name. This Religion was founded in 610, B.C. in Arabia. At first it was not favorably received by the people of Arabia, where it was first advocated. But so zealous were the few supporters, which it had, and so strong was their belief in Mahomet, that in a few yrs. thousands were admitted in its folds.

It's supposed that Mahomet frightened them into submission, and made them swear fealty to him. In a few years the most ardent of his opponents, became his most zealous supporters. All ranks, all ages, all sexes, embraced this Religion. The wandering Bedouin bore himself from the burning sands of the Desert, to acknowledge this religion; the noble, swore allegiance to Mahomet and to his Religion; the servant, performing his daily toil, prayed silently to Mahomet. Its progress, perhaps would not have been so rapid, had it not been introduced at so peculiar a time, when the prophets were foretelling the advent of Jesus, and bidding the people prepare for this important event, and ignorance and superstition compelled them to think they had found one, whom, to worship, in the person of Mahomet.

That Mahomet, although known as one, who did not belong to the highest grade of society than a camel-driver, should persuade the people into his belief, and should pretend to be a messenger of God, would appear more improbably, if he had done so at a later period. And it was a time more adapted for such a religion, because it was then that liberty was unknown, and the weak wearied out their life in servitude and chains; it was then that the storms of Ignorance howled loudest; it was then that the winds of Oppression blew loudest, and they blew everything, that was evil and debased with a violence, and the fires of superstition consumed everything that was good and great. Tired of being ruled by petty masters, or lords, who ruled, and treated, them as brutes, the inhabitants embraced the Mahometan Religion to escape tortures excruciatingly painful, which would have been inflicted upon them.

Probably nothing ever created such a panic among the terror-stricken people of the East, as did the introduction of this same Religion. Preached in Arabia first, a country, adjoining the

region where Christ was first preached, it would appear audacious in the extreme to the Christians of the present day. Had it been introduced into a more enlightened country, or at a later period, no notice would have been taken of it, and it would be held in its proper light, as being a fanatical absurdity. Its progress was hastened rapidly.

As were the Christians persecuted at the introduction of theirs, the [ruby] true, religion, so were the Mahometans persecuted.

The inhabitants of the East were startled at the pretentious, and astounded at the doctrine of Mahomet. Mahomet's [shows], which were very pompous, his pleasing words, threats, and the wonderful regard, which the people entertained for him, contributed greatly to the advancement of his own fanatical Religion. First came his progress next, his threats. If one failed to perform its purpose; the other terrified the people into submission.

This Religion, peculiar in the extreme, increased ignorance. Its believers obeyed strictly Mahomet's commands, indeed as much as Christians obey the Commandments of God. But what appears merely ludicrous, is, that they should have compared Mahomet, an ignorant man, to God, which was one of its principal tenets. What clothes it in mystery is, that they should have acknowledged Mahomet as the head of their religion. This fanaticism, as it may be properly styled, worked upon the minds of the people, as to please in one minute, and terrify in the next.

In one moment he transported his hearers with joy at the sublime picture which he drew of Paradise, the promised abode of those, who followed him; in the next moment, they grew alarmed at the threats which he pronounced upon his opponents. Mahomet probably introduced this Religion for the promotion of his own ambitious schemes. In fact, all his schemes were conducted so well, that in a few yrs. after the beginning of his Religion, he was proclaimed king.

His followers were called Saracens, and in after times, they were the bitterest opponents of Christianity.

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