MUHAMMADANISM

Excerpts From: RELIGIOUS SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD. London 1905.
By: G.W. Leitner, LLD., M.A., Ph.D., D.O.L., ETC.

My special knowledge of Muhammadanism began in a mosque-school at Constantinople in 1854, where I learned considerable portions of the Koran by heart.___

I may at once point out that without a knowledge of Arabic it is impossible to exercise any influence on the Muhammadan mind....___

Muhammadanism is not the religion of the Prophet Muhammad, because he only professed to preach the religion of his predecessors, the Jews and the Christians; both these faiths being in the faith of "Islam," of which the form preached by Muhammad is the perfection and seal.___

The Judaism known to Muhammad was chiefly the traditional "Masora" as distinguished from the "Markaba"; indeed, pure Judaism as distinct from Buddhistic or Alexandrian importations into it.

The Christianity also which Muhammad desired to restore to its purity was the preaching of Christ, as distinguished on the one part from the mystic creed of St. Paul, and the outrageous errors of certain Christian sects known to the Arabs.___

Muhammad thought the Jews would accept him as their Messiah, but the "exclusiveness" of the Jews prevented this. He, however, insisted on the Arabs and on "believers" generally participating in the blessings of their common ancestor, Abraham; and his creed, therefore, became Judaism plus proselytism, and Christianity minus the teaching of St. Paul.___

The founder of Muhammadanism has been talked of by Christians in the most unworthy manner. Still, at first, he was regarded as a quasi-Christian Sectarian. Dante refers to Muhammad as a heretic in his "Inferno;" and indeed, in another sense, he was only a dissenter from one of the many forms which have adopted the appellation of "Christian."

Some authors alleged that his religion was taken from the Talmud; but it seems to me that the question of what Muhammadanism really is cannot be summed up better than in stating it to be pure Judaism plus Proselytism, and original Christianity minus the teaching of St. Paul.___

Every Muhammadan is a church in himself; every one is allowed to give an opinion on a religious matter, on the basis of the belief common to his co-religionists. They are not slaves to priests; they pray to God without an intermediary, and their place of worship is wherever they happen to be at the appoint hours of prayer.___

There is no such thing as a Pope among them.___

Thus by knowing Arabic one has a key not only to the Muhammadan religion, but also to the heart of the whole Muhammadan world.___