

THE RELIGION OF MOHAMMED.

AS PRESENTED IN EXTRACTS SELECTED BY COUNT LEO N.
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ABDULLAH Surawardi, a Hindu Moslem, has compiled a volume of Mohammed's sayings which are not contained in the Koran. This collection has been translated into German by Adolf Hess, and the Berlin *Deutsche Rundschau* of March, 1910, published some of these sayings selected and introduced by Count Leo N. Tolstoy, who finds in them truths common to all religions. After summing up briefly and in the simplest possible language the main facts of Mohammed's life and teachings, Count Tolstoy closes with the following comparison between Mohammedanism on the one hand and Christianity and Buddhism on the other: "The violent propaganda of Mohammed's teachings accounts also for the fierce opposition which it met from the gentle-spirited Buddhists and Christians. In spite of the austerity and pure morality of the Mohammedans which excited universal sympathy and respect, their religion did not spread so extensively as other faiths which preached gentleness and mercy and ascribed to God alone the power over life and death." Some of the most striking of these apocryphal dicta of the founder of Islam read as follows:

SAYINGS OF MOHAMMED.

Mohammed lay asleep under a palm-tree, and when he awoke suddenly, he saw his enemy Diutur standing before him with his sword drawn. "Now, Mohammed, who will save thee from death?" cried Diutur. "God," answered Mohammed. Diutur let the sword sink. Mohammed tore it away from him and cried in his turn: "Now Diutur, who will save *thee* from death?" "No one," answered Diutur. "Let me show thee that the same God will save thee also!" cried Mohammed and gave him his sword back. Thenceforth Diutur became one of the most faithful adherents of the prophet.

God has said: "The man who does good, I will repay tenfold and more; he who does evil will find requital if I do not forgive him; and he who will come a span nearer to me, to him will I come an ell nearer; and he who will come an ell nearer to me, him will I come to meet twelve ells; he who comes to me walking, to him I will run; and he who comes before me full of sin, but believing, I will come before him ready to forgive him."

O Lord, keep me my life long in poverty, and let me die a beggar.

None has ever tasted better drink than he who in the name of God swallows down an angry word.

Angels said: "O God! Is there anything by thee created that is stronger than stone?" God said: "Yes; iron is stronger than stone, for it breaks it in pieces." The angels said: "O Lord, is there any thing by thee created that is stronger than iron?" "Yes," said God, fire is stronger than iron, for it melts it." And the angels said: "O Lord! is there anything by thee created that is stronger than fire?" God said: "Yes, water is stronger fire, for it checks and extinguishes it." Then said the angels: "O Lord! Is any thing by thee created stronger than water?" God said: "Yes, the wind is stronger than water; it stirs it and drives it away." They said: "O Lord, is any thing by thee created stronger than wind?" God said: "Yes; the children of Adam, who give alms; they conquer all whose left hand knoweth not what the right hand doeth."

God said: "I was a treasure which no man knew. I wished to be known: so I made man."

Mohammed said one day to Wabischah: "Is it not true that thou wouldst know of me what is good and what is evil?" "Yes," he answered, "it is for that I am come." Then Mohammed dipped his finger in oil, and touching his breast, made a sign where the heart lies and said: "Ask thy heart." He did this three times and said then: "Good is that which gives thy heart rest and security; evil is what casts thee into doubt, even if others justify thee."

Without modesty and chastity, no faith is possible.

Be stubborn in good works.

An hour of meditation is better than a year of devotion.

The reward is as great as the suffering; that is, the more unfortunate and miserable a man is, the greater and fuller is his reward. It is true that whom God loveth he chasteneth.

Know ye not what undermines our faith and makes it impossible? The errors of the expounders, the disputes of the hypocrites and the comments of the rulers which lead away from the true path.

The time is near when nothing more will remain of our faith but its name; and of the Koran nothing but the outward signs; when there will be no more teaching in the mosques and no service of God there; when the sages will be the worst men of all, from whom quarreling and strife go out and to whom they return.

The striving after knowledge is God's will for every believer; but he who gives knowledge to the unworthy hangs pearls, precious stones and gold about the necks of swine.

There are three kinds of doctrine: that whose truth is certain—follow it; that which leads astray from the true path—avoid it; and that which is not clear—seek light for it from God.

Hope in God, but fasten thy camel securely.

To keep silence as much as possible and to keep cheerful at the same time—can there be anything better?

Shall I tell you what is better than fasting, alms and prayer? A friend making peace with his friend. Enmity and hate rob man of every gift of God.

God himself is gentle and full of humility; he gives the meek what he withholds from the violent.

One day Mohammed fell asleep on a poor mat and rose very dirty. One said to him: "O man of God, if thou wishest it, I will prepare thee a soft bed." Mohammed answered: "What have I to do with this world? I am here as a traveler who has stepped into the shadow of a tree and at once steps out of it again."

When thou seest one who is richer or more beautiful than thou, think of those who are less fortunate than thou art."

One came to Mohammed and said to him: "Truly, I love thee." Mohammed answered him: "Consider what thou sayest." The man said: "I swear to thee, I love thee," and repeated these words three times. Then said Mohammed to him: "If thou art honest, prepare for poverty; for to him who loves me poverty comes more surely than the stream to the sea."

God said: "For him whom I love I am the ears with which he hears, the eyes with which he sees, the hands with which he grasps, and the feet with which he walks."

As rubbing on the earth cleanses iron, so does rubbing on God cleanse the hearts of men.

Every good deed is a work of mercy; is it not a good deed to greet a brother in a friendly manner, and to pour from thy water-skin into his pitcher?

Mohammed asked: "Believe ye that a mother will throw her child into the fire?" The answer come, "No." Then said Mohammed: "But God is yet more merciful to his creatures than a mother to her child."

Pay the workman his wage before his sweat dries.

He honors God most who forgives his enemy when he has him in his hands.

Hell is hidden behind pleasures, paradise behind work and privations.

God gives a great reward to him who suppresses his anger.

Deeds are judged according to their motives.

God loves the men who earn their bread by labor.

He only is a true laborer for truth, who bears up under misery and forgets offences.

True modesty is the source of all virtue.

The grave is the first step towards eternity.