

**NOTES ON
MUHAMMADANIS
M**

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Notes on Muhammadanism by T. P. Hughes

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ON
MUHAMMADANISM.

BY THE
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P R E F A C E.

THERE is a general impression amongst European students of Islamism, that it is a simple system of Deism unfettered by numerous dogmas and creeds, which are supposed to be such an insuperable hindrance to an acceptance of Christianity. Such was the opinion of the historian Gibbon, and it is also the view taken by some who seek to weaken the authority of the Christian system by extolling the merit of its great rival creed. But even amongst the advocates of Christianity there is altogether an

erroneous impression as to what Muhammadanism really is. Dean Stanley has an admirable chapter on the subject of Islamism in his "Eastern Church," but he tells his readers that "*the Qurān contains the whole of the religion of Muhammad;*" and Mr. Zincke in his exceedingly interesting book "Egypt of the Pharaohs and the Khadive," appears to be under the same impression, for he says "*the Qurān is an all embracing and sufficient code, regulating everything.*" Whereas the true state of the case is, that whilst the Qurān is the highest authority for Muslim doctrine, still, the "faithful" whether Sunni, Shiah, or Wahābi, must receive the sayings and practices of their prophet as of divine obligation, for in Islamism the teachings of the "Sacred Traditions" must be received side by side with that of the Qurān itself; and the Muslim who would escape the suspicion of heresy must not dare to question the teaching of the learned doctors, whose opinions have

been handed down in numerous commentaries and ponderous volumes of divinity.

In publishing these "Notes on Muhammadanism" the author is fully conscious of their imperfections,* but he ventures to hope that they will contain information which may be suggestive to Missionaries and others interested in the study of Islamism.

Upon a thoughtful study of the present work, the reader cannot fail to observe what an important place *dogmatic teaching* occupies in the system under consideration. There are those amongst English and Continental writers who regard all dogmatic teaching as antiquated, and who would recommend the Christian Missionary to keep *dogma* in the back ground,

* They are bona fide notes of a larger work which the author has in course of compilation.

when dealing with such a religious system as Muhammadanism. But Muslim divines would spurn such teaching as unworthy of theologians, whether of Islām or of Christianity. The trumpet must give no uncertain sound. It is a solemn thing for a Christian Missionary to be engaged day after day in unsettling the religious opinions of immortal beings, unless he feels that he has something good and true to offer in the place of opinions renounced. If we call upon the millions of Islām to loose from their moorings amidst the reefs and shoals of a false system, and to steer forth into the wide ocean of religious inquiry, we must surely direct them to some fair haven of refuge where they will find rest and peace. It has been well said by Dr. Martensen* that "a mind starved by doubt has never been able to produce a dogmatic system;" and we are quite sure

* Christian Dogmatics, by Dr. H. Martensen, Bishop of Seeland, Denmark.

that all who have had practical experience of Islamism, will agree that none could be so helpless in dealing with Muslim doctors, as those who are wandering about in the uncertainty of doubt, and cannot stand firm in the certainty of faith.

On the other hand, Muhammadanism may be used as a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ, for much which is contained in its elaborate system is expressive of man's great and exceeding need. The Christian controversialist in dealing with Muhammadanism must ever remember that it contains a two-fold element of truth. The founder of Islamism derived much of his system from that great unwritten law of God which is ever speaking to men of every nation and of every clime; and he was also greatly indebted to the written law of the Holy One of Israel, although he received it from Talmudic sources. To quote