

**STUDENTS' LECTURES ON  
MISSIONS, PRINSTON  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
MCMXV:  
THE DISINTEGRATION OF ISLAM**

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Students' Lectures on Missions, Princeton Theological Seminary MCMXV: The Disintegration of Islam by Samuel M. Zwemer

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MAIN MINARET OF EL AZHAR MOSQUE, CAIRO.

El Azhar University dates from the time of the Fatimids. The original mosque was built by Jauhar in 972 A.D. It is said to have about 10,000 students and a library of 19,000 volumes.

*STUDENTS' LECTURES ON MISSIONS*  
*Princeton Theological Seminary MCMXV*

# THE DISINTEGRATION OF ISLAM

BY  
**SAMUEL M. ZWEMER, F.R.G.S.**

||  
AUTHOR OF

"Childhood in the Moslem World," "Arabia, the Cradle of  
Islam," "The Moslem Christ," "Zig-Zag Journeys  
in the Camel Country," "Topsy-Turvy Land,"  
etc., etc.

*ILLUSTRATED*



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71.8

THESE lectures were delivered in Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary, October, 1915. They were subsequently also delivered at the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America, New Brunswick, N. J.; and at the Theological Seminary of the American Mission, Cairo, Egypt.

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"The harvest is not benefited by confounding weeds with wheat. Harmony is not enhanced by a premature recourse to synthesis, before due scope has been given to discriminating analysis. God is not honoured by attributing to His causation what He only overrules, in working out His sovereign designs. God is greater in permitting the exercise of free action, even if opposed to His own will, and in yet finally accomplishing His purpose, than if He were to exercise His sovereignty to the extent of rendering every counter-current impossible, and monopolising the whole channel of history by the unchecked flow of His own volition."—S. W. KÖELLE: "Mohammed and Mohammedanism."

"It surely is altogether false, if some, in modern times, assert that Islam has a mission in this world, namely, of serving as a preparation of idolatrous nations for the faith in the one true God. History most positively contradicts this assertion. Islam has never operated to prepare the way for Christianity, and least does so today."—C. H. SCHARLING of Copenhagen.

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## PREFACE

*From heaven fought the stars,  
From their courses they fought against Sisera.  
That river Kishon swept them away,  
The ancient river, the river Kishon.  
O my soul, march on with strength.*

—The Song of Deborah.—Judges 5:20-22.

What  
shit!

LIKE all other non-Christian systems and philosophies Islam is a dying religion; from the outset it had in it the germs of death—neither the character of the Koran nor of its Prophet have in them the promise or potency of life that will endure. Even Carlyle, whose "The Hero as Prophet" is often quoted as an apology for Islam, admitted this. In his lecture on "The Hero as Poet" he said: "It was intrinsically an error that notion of Mahomet's, of his supreme Prophethood; and has come down to us inextricably involved in error to this day; dragging along with it such a coil of fables, iniquities, intolerances, as makes it a questionable step for me here and now to say, as I have done, that Mahomet was a true Speaker at all, and not rather an ambitious charlatan, perversity and simulacrum; no Speaker, but a Babbler! Even in Arabia, as I compute, Mahomet will have exhausted himself and become obsolete, while this Shakspeare,

this Dante may still be young. . . . His Koran has become a stupid piece of prolix absurdity; we do not believe, like him, that God wrote that!"

Moreover, at the present time there are in Islam many evidences of decay. In 1899, a company of delegates from the Moslem world assembled in Mecca and gave fourteen days to investigate the causes for the decay of Islam. Fifty-seven reasons were given, including fatalism, the opposition of science, the rejection of religious liberty, neglect of education and inactivity due to the hopelessness of the cause itself. A leading Moslem editor in India wrote in 1914:—"We see that neither wealth nor 'education' nor political power can enable the Muslims to achieve their national salvation. Where then lies the remedy? Before seeking the remedy we must ascertain the disease. But the Muslims are not diseased, they have reached a worse stage. A diseased man has still life in him."

We find the same note of despair in the recent volume of essays by an educated Indian Moslem, S. Khuda Bukhsh, M.A. He speaks of the "hideous deformity" of Moslem society and of "the vice and immorality, the selfishness, self-seeking, and hypocrisy which are corrupting it through and through." Those who live among Moslems and read Moslem newspapers and