

VI

MOHAMMEDAN IDEAS OF THE TRINITY

“They say the Merciful has taken to Himself a son—ye have brought a monstrous thing! The heavens well-nigh burst asunder thereat, and the earth is riven and the mountains fall down broken, that they attribute to the Merciful a son! But it becomes not the Merciful to take to Himself a son.”—*Surah Miriam, vs. 91-93.*

“Praise belongs to God who has not taken to Himself a son and has not had a partner in His kingdom, nor had a patron against such abasement.”—*The Night Journey, vs. 112.*

THE Moslem idea of God consists not only in what is asserted of Deity, but also, and more emphatically, in what is denied. James Freeman Clarke, in his study of the Ten Great Religions, calls attention to this fact in regard to all false faiths in these pregnant words: “Of all the systems of belief which have had a widespread hold on mankind this may be posited, that they are commonly true in what they affirm, false in what they deny. The error in every theory is usually found in its denials, that is,