

In proportion as the lot of the conquered peoples became harder to bear, the more irresistible was the temptation to free themselves from their miseries, by the words: "There is no God but God; and Mohammed is the prophet of God." When the state was in need of money—as was increasingly the case—the subject races were more and more burdened with taxes, so that the condition of the non-Moslems was constantly growing more unendurable, and conversions to Islam increased in the same proportion. Further causes that contributed to the decrease of the Christian population may be found in the fact that the children of the numerous Christian captive women who were carried off to the harems of the Moslems had to be brought up in the religion of their fathers; and in the frequent temptation that was offered to the Christian slave by an indulgent master, of purchasing his freedom at the price of conversion to Islam. But of any organized attempt to force the acceptance of Islam on the non-Moslem population, or of any systematic persecution intended to stamp out the Christian religion, we hear nothing.

—*T. W. Arnold*

And yet it is certain that Islam made inroads upon Hinduism and added many converts to the Moslem faith. Several reasons may be adduced to account for these conversions. First among these reasons was the superiority of the Moslem religion, being a pure monotheism in contrast with the gross idolatry of the Hindu and the fetishism of the outcaste. Another reason lies in the social system of Islam, which accords a recognition of equality in the brotherhood which Hinduism refused to its votaries. It was a deliverer to the downcast Malaich or low-caste population, and many then, as they now do, readily embraced the opportunity of escape by accepting the faith of Islam. . . . In every case such voluntary acceptance of the faith meant admission into the rights and privileges enjoyed by every member of the Mohammedan brotherhood.

—*E. M. Wherry*