

Islam, has been held throughout the centuries. The historical fact of Christ's crucifixion, with all it signifies to Christianity, has always been flatly contradicted. Only among the Shiah sect in Persia do we have a remarkable illustration of the doctrine of the atonement and of substitution forcing a way for itself into Islam. The Aryan mind was never content with the barren monotheistic idea of the Semite Arabs. In Persia, the doctrine of an incarnation, of intercessors, and of salvation by atonement, found eager acceptance at an early date. Those who have witnessed the miracle play of Hassan and Hussein, commemorative of the events at Kerbela, will realize how large a place this death occupies in their life and thought as a propitiation for sin. At the close of the miracle play, the following words are put into the mouth of Mohammed:

"The key of paradise is in Hussein's hand. He is the mediator for all. Go thou and deliver from the flames everyone who has in his lifetime shed but a single tear for thee: everyone who has in any way helped thee; everyone who has performed a pilgrimage to thy shrine or mourned for thee. Bear each and all to paradise."*

In presenting this doctrine of the atonement, therefore, to Moslems of the Shiah sect, the story of Kerbela can be used to interpret that of Calvary, and finds a response. At the Cairo missionary conference the Rev. S. G. Wilson, of Tabriz, gave this testimony: "When we are setting forth

* Sir Lewis Pelly, "The Miracle Play of Hassan and Husain," Vol. II, pp. 343-248.