

"I swear by the splendor of light
 And by the silence of night
 That the Lord shall never forsake thee
 Nor in his hatred take thee;
 Truly for thee shall be winning
 Better than all beginning.
 Soon shall the Lord console thee, grief no longer con-
 trol thee,
 And fear no longer cajole thee.
 Thou wert an orphan-boy, yet the Lord found room
 for thy head.
 When thy feet went astray, were they not to the right
 path led?
 Did he not find thee poor, yet riches around thee
 spread?
 Then on the orphan-boy, let thy proud foot never tread,
 And never turn away the beggar who asks for bread,
 But of the Lord's bounty ever let praise be sung and
 said."¹

When twelve years old Mohammed was taken
 on a mercantile journey as far as Syria. Here
 first he came in contact with Christians and met
 the monk Buhaira. For the rest, the youth of
 Mohammed was uneventful, and he was em-
 ployed, as other lads, in herding sheep and goats.
 To this he refers in the traditional saying,
 "Verily there hath been no prophet who hath
 not performed the work of a shepherd." At the
 age of twenty-five he entered the service of

Youth and
 Early
 Manhood

¹ Sura 93. Translation printed in the *Edinburgh Review* for July,
 1866, article "Mohammed." It has all the rhyme and beauty of the
 original.