

**Defection but
Final Winning
of Arab Tribes**

Islam had so little real grip on the Arabs themselves that, on Mohammed's death, the Bedouin tribes, with one accord, fell away from Islam and all the prophet's work in Arabia had to be done over again. Medina and Mecca alone remained true to their faith. One writer states that the Arab tribes started aside, like a broken bow, and were only brought back gradually to hold fast to Islam by one inducement or another: "by kindly treatment, persuasion, and craft; by fear and the terror of the sword; by the prospect of power and wealth; and by the lusts and pleasures of this life."

**Political Sway
not Always
Religious
Conversion**

Mohammed himself had so completely confused the functions of prophet and politician, warrior and preacher, that it is not surprising his successors knew no distinction between the word of Allah and the sword of Allah in the propagating of their faith. Yet the most remarkable fact in the spread of Islam is that political sway was *not* altogether synonymous with religious conversion. When Islam triumphed in Asia Minor, Christianity was dominant among the peoples speaking Greek, Armenian, and Syriac, and these peoples, after twelve centuries of contact and conflict with Islam, are still Christian. The spread of Islam was not wholly a triumph. The victory more than once remained to the vanquished, and