

to the last prophet, Mohammed. This is the belief of all *orthodox* Moslems. Thousands of Mohammedans now, however, say the Bible is not corrupted, and read it willingly and gladly.

This book is considered by Moslems the great standing miracle of their prophet, and it is no doubt a remarkable production. It is a little smaller than the New Testament in bulk, and has one hundred and fourteen chapters, bearing fanciful titles borrowed from some word or phrase in the chapter, such as the Cow, the Bee, Women, Spoils, the Ant, the Spider, Smoke, the Pen, and others equally curious. The book has no chronological order, and its jumbled verses throw together, piecemeal, fact and fancy, laws and legends, prayers and imprecations. It is unintelligible without a commentary, even for a Moslem. Moslems regard it as supreme in beauty of style and language, and miraculous in its origin, contents, and authority. Its musical jingle and cadence are charming, and, at times, highly poetical ideas are clothed in sublime language. The first chapter and the so-called verse of the "Throne" are striking examples:

The Koran

THE OPENING CHAPTER

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.
Praise be to God, Lord of the worlds!
The Compassionate, the Merciful!
King of the Day of Judgment!