

Mohammedanism has the shortest creed in the world, and it has been oftener repeated, and has perhaps had more power over those that uttered it than any other. The creed is so brief that it has needed no revision for thirteen centuries. It is taught to infants, and whispered in the ears of the dying. Five times a day it rings out in the call to prayer in the whole Moslem world: "*La-ilaha-illa-'llahu; Muhammadu-Rasulu-'allah.*" "There is no god but God; Mohammed is the apostle of God." On every occasion this creed is repeated by the believer. It is the key to every door of difficulty. *It is the watchword of Islam.* These words they inscribe on their banners and on their door-posts. They appear on all the early coins of the caliphs. This creed of seven Arabic words rings out in every Moslem village from the Philippines to Morocco. One hears it in the bazaar and the street and the mosque; it is a battle-cry and a cradle-song, an exclamation of delight and a funeral dirge.

Confession of
the Creed

Surely this diligent, constant, almost fanatic use of their short creed as a public confession has been not only a strength to Islam, but one of the chief factors in its rapid spread. The very impetuosity and frequency of its repetition has often persuaded ignorant men of its truth by the impetus of its proclamation.

Effects
Produced