

**One Language  
and Many  
Races**

Arabic is the language of the Koran, but there are millions of Moslems who cannot understand a single sentence of Mohammed's book, for they speak other languages. On the streets of Mecca one may see drawn together by a common faith the Turkish effendi in Paris costume, with Constantinople etiquette; the half-naked Bedouin of the desert; the fierce Afghan mountaineer; the Russian trader from the far north; the almond-eyed Moslem from Yün-nan; the Indian graduate from the Calcutta universities; Persians, Somalis, Hausas, Javanese, Sudanese, Egyptians, Berbers, Kabyles, and Moors. Mecca at the time of the annual pilgrimage has a pilgrim population of about sixty thousand, and among them are representatives of every nation under heaven.

**Numbers**

It is manifestly impossible to obtain anything better than a careful estimate of the total Mohammedan population of the globe, for so many lands that are prevailing Moslem have never had a census nor heard of one, and there is great uncertainty as to the total population of large districts in Africa and of the western provinces of China. The following estimates of the total Moslem population of the world lead to the belief that there are about two hundred and twenty-five million people who are nominally Mohammedans: