

**Polygamy,
Divorce, and
Slavery**

There are certain evils which the Moslem religion allows of which it is also necessary to write. They exist not in spite of Islam, but because of Islam and because of the teaching of its Sacred Book. These social evils are so closely intertwined with the whole system that they can never be wholly abandoned without doing violence to the teaching of the Koran and the example of Mohammed. In Moslem books of theology, jurisprudence, and ethics there are long chapters on each of these subjects. Nor can there be the least doubt that polygamy and slavery have had a tremendous power in the spread and grasp of Islam. It is the testimony of history that the slave-traders of Zanzibar were also the missionaries of Islam, in Africa; and the last census report of Bengal states that the increase of the Mohammedan population there is due, not to conversions from Hinduism, but to polygamy and concubinage as open doors into a higher caste for submerged Hindu womanhood. The loose moral code of Islam has ever been an attraction to the pagan tribes of Africa and Asia over against the demands of the gospel and the law of Christ. Morally, Islam is an easy-going religion.

**Legal Status
of Women**

It is impossible to give here, even in outline, the true character, extent, and effect of these three "religious institutions" of Islam. A Mos-