

**Roman  
Catholic  
Era**

Even in the sixteenth century, devoted as were the Roman Catholic missionaries who then went forth to the pagan world, there was little to attract and less to welcome them in lands under Moslem rule.

**Neglect  
under  
Modern  
Missions**

When the modern missionary revival began with Carey, the idea was to carry the gospel to the *heathen* and the Mohammedans were neglected. No part of the non-christian world has been so long and so widely neglected as Islam. The task has either appeared so formidable, the obstacles to its accomplishment have seemed so great, or faith has been so weak that one might suppose the Church thought her great commission to evangelize the world did not apply to Mohammedans.

**Misconception  
and Ignorance**

The reason for this neglect was on the one hand the attitude of the Church toward Islam, and on the other that of Islam toward the Church. "Christendom," says Keller, "accustomed itself ever since the time of the Crusades to look upon Islam as its most bitter foe and not as a prodigal son to be won back to the Father's house." There was also the greatest ignorance of the real character of Islam, and the Councils of the Church were so busy with minor matters of the faith that they ignored this gigantic heresy which was sweeping over the lands once Christian.