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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

Maulana Mohammad Manzoor Nomani's present contribution, along with two of his earlier books—*Islam kiya Hai?* and *Deen-o-Shariat*—, provides a complete introduction to the study of the fundamental teachings of Islam. In these books the Maulana has undertaken to present the basic message of Islam in a form and language that was appealing to the minds of the modern-educated classes and could also be helpful in removing the doubts and suspicions which are raised in the sphere of religious belief and practice, in general, and against Islam, in particular, in the current materialistic context of things. Two of these have already appeared in English under the titles of *What Islam Is?* and *Islamic Faith and Practice*, and the translation of the present one will, it is hoped, mark the fulfilment of a great need. It will make it possible to suggest confidently a set of studies on Islam to anyone who may be wanting to read about it in English for, as far as I am aware, no better and more precise and straightforward exposition of what Islam stands for and demands from its followers is to be found in that language. It is, honestly, a matter of pride and deep gratitude to the Almighty for me that the choice of Maulana Nomani for translating the whole series into English fell upon me.

Maulana Mohammad Manzoor Nomani is too well-known as a writer on Islamic subjects to need an introduction from me. All of his works have been eminently successful and seen a number of reprints. In fact,

A WORD ABOUT THE REVEALER OF THE QURAN¹

It is generally agreed that in the sixth century of the Christian era the whole world was immersed in moral gloom and spiritual torpor. The torch of heavenly guidance had been extinguished. Europe was steeped in the darkness of the Middle Ages. Iran and its dependencies were caught in the tempest of the Mazdakite Movement which had played havoc with the nobler values of life and reduced man into a beast. In India, the Puranic Age was in its prime. By all accounts, it marked the most woeful phase in the long and chequered history of the land. The condition of the other parts of the known world was no less deplorable.

Situated, so to speak, in the heart of the world was the Peninsula of Arabia. Owing to the centrality of its geographical position it was known, in the olden days as the "navel of the world". The whole country was devoid of the light of spiritual guidance, learning and civilization. The sixth century A. D found the Arabs plunged in depravity, perversion and dark idolatry. Instead of one God, innumerable deities and images of stone were worshipped and human sacrifice was prevalent. The House of Ka'aba, built by Prophets Ibrahim (Abraham) and Ismail (Ishmael) with their own hands for the worship of the Almighty, had been turned into a huge idol temple. The law of the jungle prevailed everywhere. There was not even the semblance of a Government. Murder, infanticide and robbery were

¹ These lines were written specially for the English Edition.

