

HORIZON

**The magazine
of useful and
intelligent living**



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● *To meet a world need*

A World Religion

THERE has never been a religious tradition based upon a world viewpoint. Religions have belonged to areas and zones, to tribes and nations. They arose in certain climates, localities, and areas. All religions have been geared very closely to their own time and to the civilization to which they first came.

From original limitations several religions have been extended into larger areas, but with very little of basic change in viewpoint. Consider Islam, which is one of the great religions of the world. Its doctrines, as given by the Prophet Mohammed, were intended for Arabia. Nothing in the words or in the life of the Prophet indicates that he ever expected his belief to go beyond the boundaries of the desert. He was brought up among the people of the Near East, Mecca, and Medina. Their problems were his problems; he saw the difficulties and errors of the doctrine that dominated the conduct of his own people and those of the desert tribes. He hoped and longed for a spiritual revelation that would bring peace to these people; and he received the solution of their problems in the Suras of the Koran.

Under the victorious Caliphs, the doctrine of Islam was ultimately extended far beyond the boundaries of those Arabian camps. It was imposed upon nation

after nation, upon race after race. And more and more apparent became the indications of its weaknesses as it was imposed upon peoples whose experience was entirely different from that of the Arabians. Had Mohammed lived in Asia, he would have written the Koran differently; because he would have been in a different environment, among people with a different point of view on life. Islam came to India under the hierarchy of the Mogul Emperors, after the Prophet's death; and it was a faith foreign to the Hindus, one beyond contact with their deeper spiritual life. Truth is truth, you might say, no matter to whom it is given, and no matter to whom it is applied, meaning that

