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A CHILD'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD

# 美国学生 世界历史



英汉双语版

Virgil Mores Hillyer [美] 维吉尔·M·希利尔 / 著 金玉 李洁 / 译 许嘉庆 / 校



天津出版传媒集团  
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# A CHILD'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD

## Muhammad and the Early Years of Islam

## 穆罕默德和初期的伊斯兰教

WE have already heard about two religions that began in the part of the world we now call the Middle East. These are Judaism and Christianity. In this story, I'll tell you about a third religion that began in the same area. This religion is called Islam.

Every hundred years is called a century, but a thing that seems a little strange is this—the hundred years from 500 to 600 is called the sixth century, not the fifth; the hundred years from 600 to 700 is called the seventh century, not the sixth, and so on. Well, we have now reached the seventh century, the six hundreds, and we are to learn of a man who was to make a change in the whole world.

There lived in Arabia a man named Muhammad. He was born into humble circumstances. Because his parents died when he was young, he was raised by an uncle. His uncle operated camel caravans, which transported passengers and goods much as trains or trucks do today. The Arabian city of Mecca, where Muhammad lived, was the center of the caravan trade. These camel caravans traveled across the Arabian Desert to North Africa and to the lands along the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. Although Muhammad had little formal education, he traveled to many wonderful places with the caravans and met many different kinds of people. While working for his uncle, he met a wealthy Arabian woman named Khadija. They were soon married and lived happily together. Muhammad and Khadija had four daughters.

A remarkable thing happened to Muhammad when he was around forty years old. According to Muslim tradition, the story is told that he was visiting a mountain in the desert, where he often went to study and think. One day the angel Gabriel appeared and delivered a message from God. Muhammad listened to this message and set out to teach it to others. But Muhammad did not intend to start a whole new religion.

He believed in the same God that the Jews and Christians worshiped. In Arabia there were Jews and Christians, as well as others who still worshiped idols. These groups often fought over their religious differences. Muhammad hoped that his teachings would make them more understanding of one another.

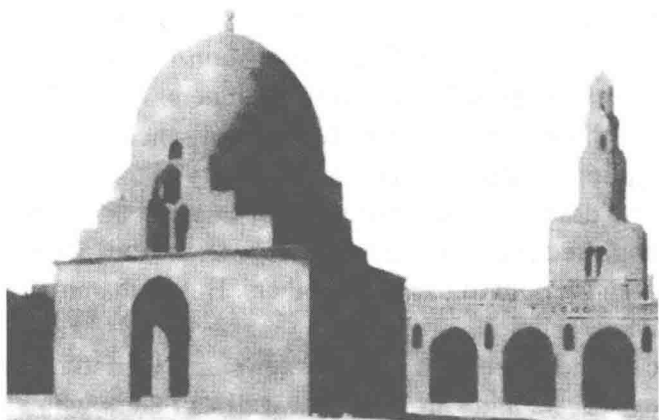


World of Islam (伊斯兰世界)

Muhammad saw a lot of unjust and bad behavior around him. He taught that people should change their selfish ways of living and be more concerned for those less fortunate. But, of course, it is impossible to get everyone to agree to change. A new religion began, instead, among those people who believed in Muhammad's teachings. His followers became known as Muslims, and their religion is called Islam. Islam means "submission" to God.

Khadija was the first to follow her husband's teachings. Soon others in Mecca followed, but there were some who wanted to stop Muhammad's teachings. In 622 A.D. Muhammad and his followers moved from Mecca to the city of Medina. This first migration is called the Hegira. Some years later, they returned to Mecca, but Muslims today still teach the story of the angel Gabriel appearing before Muhammad and of the Hegira.

The Muslims began their calendar with the year of the Hegira, calling 622 A.D. the Year 1, just as Christians began their calendar from the year of Jesus's birth and the Romans from the year of the founding of their city. Have you



In 622 A.D. Muhammad and his followers moved from Mecca to the city of Medina.

公元 622 年，穆罕默德和他的信徒们从麦加城迁移到麦地那城。

noticed that the Christians, the Romans, and the Muslims each have a different Year 1 ?

Muhammad lived only ten years after the Hegira; that is, until 632 A.D. The new Muslim leaders were called caliphs. The caliphs continued to spread Muhammad's teachings. The first caliph was Abu Bakr; the second was named Omar. These teachings from God were written down and became the Qur'an (sometimes spelled as Koran), the Muslim holy book. "Qur'an" comes from a word that means "to recite" because Muslims learn to recite the Qur'an when they are young.

"Allah" is the Arabic word for God. When Muslims pray to Allah, they are praying to the same God that Christians and Jews worship. Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last of God's prophets. They also believe that Abraham, Moses, and Jesus were also God's prophets.

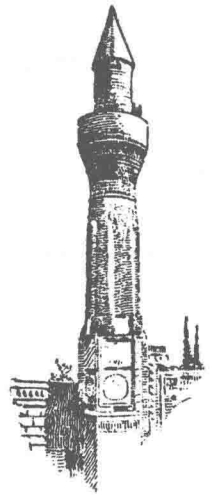
Muslims worship in a building called a mosque, just as Christians worship in a church, and Jews worship in a synagogue or temple. They also pray five times each day, if possible, wherever they may be. A man called a muezzin goes out on the balcony of a minaret, or tower, of a mosque and calls aloud, "Come to prayer. Come to prayer. There is but one God, and He is Allah."

When Muslims pray, they face toward the city of Mecca because the holiest shrine of Muslims, called the Ka'ba, is located there. At least once in their lifetime, Muslims try to make the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

During the early years of Islam, its leaders were building an empire, much of it in the lands that had once been a part of the Roman Empire. Muslim armies traveled around the Mediterranean, through the Middle East, all the way to Constantinople.

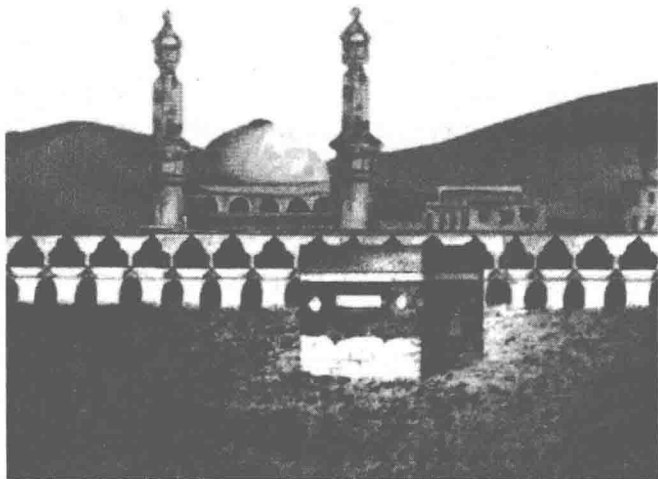
At Constantinople, the gateway from Asia to Europe, they were turned back by Christians, who poured hot tar and burning oil from the walls of the city. The Muslims tried many times to capture Constantinople but without success. Muslim armies also went westward through North Africa, across the Strait of Gibraltar into Spain and across the Pyrenees Mountains into southern France. In 732 A.D., just one hundred years after the death of Muhammad, they met their match near the town of Tours in France.

The king of France had a right-hand man named Charles, who had been nicknamed Charles the Hammer because he could strike such terrific blows. Charles was also called Mayor of the Palace, which meant that he was the chief



Muezzin on minaret  
calling to prayer  
穆安津在塔楼上呼唤众  
人来祈祷

servant of the king. Charles the Hammer and his French soldiers defeated the Muslims and kept them from moving farther into Europe.



When Muslims pray, they face toward the city of Mecca...  
the holiest shrine of Muslims called the Ka'ba is located there.

穆斯林祈祷的时候，都面朝麦加城的方向……  
穆斯林最神圣的神祠克尔白就坐落在那里。

In just a century, Islam had spread far and wide. People in countries bordering the Mediterranean, from Constantinople, all the way around North Africa on the southern edge, and north through Spain into France, lived under Muslim rulers. Many ordinary people had become Muslim. Even today, Islam is the main religion in the Middle East and North Africa.

### 【中文阅读】

我们已经知道有两大宗教起源于世界上我们现在称为中东的那个地区，这两大宗教就是犹太教和基督教。在这个故事中，我要给你讲一讲这同一地区产生的另一种宗教，这种宗教叫做伊斯兰教。

每一百年被称为一个世纪，但有件事似乎有点奇怪——从500年到600年这一百年叫6世纪，而不是5世纪；从600年到700年这一百年叫7世纪，而不是6世纪，等等。那好，我们现在讲到了7世纪，也就是公元六百零几年的时候。我们就要听说到一个将要给全世界带来变化的人。

在阿拉伯，有个叫穆罕默德的人，他出生于一个低微的家庭。因为父母在他很小的时候就去世了，他是被叔叔抚养大的。他的叔叔经营着骆驼旅行队，运送旅客和货物，就像现在的火车或卡车的作用。阿拉伯的麦加城是旅行队贸易的中心，穆罕默德就住在麦加城。这些骆驼旅行队穿过阿拉伯沙漠到达北非和地中海东端沿岸

的地区。尽管穆罕默德没有受过什么正规教育，但他随着旅行队游历过很多奇妙的地方，见过形形色色的人。他在为叔叔工作的时候，遇到了一个富有的阿拉伯女人，名叫赫蒂彻。很快，他们就结婚了，幸福地生活在一起，穆罕默德和赫蒂彻有四个女儿。

大约在穆罕默德 40 岁的时候，他遇到了一件非同寻常的事情。据穆斯林的传说，事情的经过是这样的：穆罕默德正在拜访一座沙漠里的山，他经常去那里学习和思考。有一天，天使加百列在他面前显灵，传达了上帝的启示。穆罕默德聆听了上帝的启示，开始向人们传道，宣讲上帝的启示。但是，穆罕默德并没有打算创立一门全新的宗教。

他信奉的上帝也就是犹太人和基督徒崇拜的上帝。在阿拉伯，既有犹太教徒和基督徒，也有信奉诸多神灵的其他一些人。这些群体经常因为宗教信仰的不同而发生冲突，穆罕默德希望他的教诲可以让他们增进相互的理解。

穆罕默德看到周围有许多不公平和恶劣的行为，他就教诲众人要转变自私自利的生活方式，更加关心那些不幸的人们。然而，让每个人都愿意做出改变当然是不可能的。但是，在信奉穆罕默德教诲的众人中，却诞生了一个新的宗教。他的信徒们逐渐被称为穆斯林，而他们的宗教则被称为伊斯兰教。“伊斯兰”的意思是“顺从上帝”。

赫蒂彻是第一个听从她丈夫教诲的人。很快，麦加城里的其他人也开始追随穆罕默德，不过也有些人想要阻止他布道。公元 622 年，穆罕默德和他的信徒们从麦加城迁移到麦地那城。这第一次迁移称为“希吉拉”<sup>1</sup>。几年后，他们又回到了麦加城。今天的穆斯林仍然在传播加百列在穆罕默德面前显灵和希吉拉的故事。

穆斯林是从希吉拉那一年开始纪年，把公元 622 年称为他们的元年，就像基督徒从耶稣诞生的那一年、罗马人从建立罗马城那一年开始纪年一样。你注意到了吗？基督徒、罗马人和穆斯林各自有不同的元年。

穆罕默德在希吉拉之后只活了十年，也就是说他活到了公元 632 年。那些新任的穆斯林领袖都被称为“哈里发”<sup>2</sup>。哈里发继续传播穆罕默德的教诲。第一任哈里发是阿布—伯克尔，第二任哈里发叫奥马尔。后来，这些来自上帝的教导被记录下来，成为《古兰经》（也可译为《可兰经》）。“古兰”来自“诵读”一词，因为穆斯林在幼年就学习诵读《古兰经》了。

“安拉”是阿拉伯语中对上帝的称呼。当穆斯林向安拉祈祷时，他们就是在向基督徒、犹太教徒所礼拜的那个上帝祈祷。穆斯林认为，穆罕默德是最后一位上帝的先知。他们认为亚伯拉罕、摩西和耶稣也都是上帝派来的先知。

穆斯林在一个叫“清真寺”的建筑里做礼拜，就像基督徒在教堂里做礼拜、犹太教徒在犹太会堂或教堂做礼拜一样。不管在什么地方，如果可以的话，他们还要一天祈祷五次。每一次，一个称作穆安津的人就会来到光塔、塔楼或清真寺的阳台

1 “希吉拉”在阿拉伯语中意为“迁徙”——译者注。

2 这个词在阿拉伯语中意为“继承人”——译者注。



上，大声呼唤：“来祈祷吧，来祈祷吧，只有一个真主，他就是安拉。”

穆斯林祈祷的时候，都面朝麦加城的方向，因为穆斯林最神圣的神祠克尔白就坐落在那里。穆斯林在一生之中，至少要设法到圣城麦加去朝圣一次。

在伊斯兰教早期，伊斯兰教的领袖们建立了一个帝国，这个帝国的大量土地都曾是罗马帝国的领土。穆斯林的军队绕过地中海，穿过中东，一路进军来到了君士坦丁堡。

在君士坦丁堡这个亚洲通向欧洲的大门前，城里的基督徒将滚烫的焦油和燃烧的煤油从城墙上倾泻下来，把穆斯林挡了回来。穆斯林又多次设法攻占君士坦丁堡，但是都失败了。穆斯林的军队也向西穿过北非，跨越直布罗陀海峡进入西班牙，还越过比利牛斯山脉进入了法国南部。公元732年，正好是穆罕默德去世后一百年，他们在法国靠近图尔城的地方遇到了强劲的对手。

法国的国王有个得力助手叫查理，绰号“铁锤查理”，因为他打击起敌人来就像铁锤那样有力。查理也被称为“宫长”，这意味着他是国王的亲信。“铁锤查理”带领他的法国士兵们打败了穆斯林，阻止了他们向欧洲进一步扩张。

仅仅过了一个世纪，伊斯兰教就广泛地传播开来。地中海周边各国人民，从君士坦丁堡直到南边的北非、北边的西班牙再到法国，都生活在穆斯林的统治之下。许多普通民众都成了穆斯林。甚至今天，伊斯兰教仍然是中东和北非的主要宗教。

PERHAPS you have read the *Arabian Nights*. This is the story of

## Arabian Days

## 阿拉伯时代

In the one hundred years after Muhammad died, the Muslims conquered the Middle East and North Africa. Soon after that, they conquered Persia and lands farther east. Before long, their empire was larger than the Roman Empire had been. For the Middle East and North Africa, the centuries that followed were indeed Arabian Days. Although they failed to conquer most of Europe, over the years people there learned many things from the Muslims.

The Phoenicians invented our alphabet, but the Arabs invented the figures which we use today in arithmetic. 1, 2, 3, 4, and so on are called Arabic figures. The Romans used letters instead of figures: V stood for 5, X for 10, C for 100, M for 1000, and so on. Think how difficult it must have been for a Roman boy to add such numbers as

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{IV} \\
 \text{VII} \\
 + \text{MC} \\
 \text{XC II} \\
 \text{VII} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

They could not be added up in columns as we do. When you think of multiplying and dividing with Roman numbers, it seems almost impossible, for example:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{MCVII} \\
 \times \text{XIX} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

Occasionally you may see Roman figures still used—on clock faces, for instance—but all the figures that you use every day in your arithmetic are Arabic figures.

Another thing:

The Arabs built many beautiful buildings; these buildings look quite different from those that the Greeks and Romans and Christians built. The doors and window openings, instead of being square or round, were usually horseshoe-shaped. On the top of their mosques they liked to put domes shaped something like an onion, and at the corners they put tall spires or minarets from which the muezzin could call aloud the hour for prayer. They covered the walls of their buildings with beautiful mosaics and designs. The Muslims, however, were very careful that these designs were not copies of anything in nature, for they had a commandment in the Qur'an something like the Christian commandment, "Thou shalt not make... any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." Because of this commandment, most Muslims never made drawings or pictures of any living thing, neither of plants nor animals. They thought they would be breaking the commandment if they did. So they made designs out of lines and curves without copying anything from nature. These designs were called *arabesques*, and although they were not like anything in nature, they were often very beautiful.

Still another thing:

In Arabia there grew a little bush on which were small berries with seeds inside. The sheep seemed to like these berries and, when they ate them, became very lively. The Arabs themselves tried eating the seeds of these berries with the same effect. Then they made a drink out of these seeds by roasting and grinding them and boiling them in water. This was coffee—which the Arabs had discovered and which is now drunk all over the world.

Another drink made from berries, often from grapes, is alcohol. The Muslims did not like what alcohol does to people who drink it, and so they forbade every Muslim from drinking anything containing alcohol, such as wine, beer, or whiskey.

Still another thing:

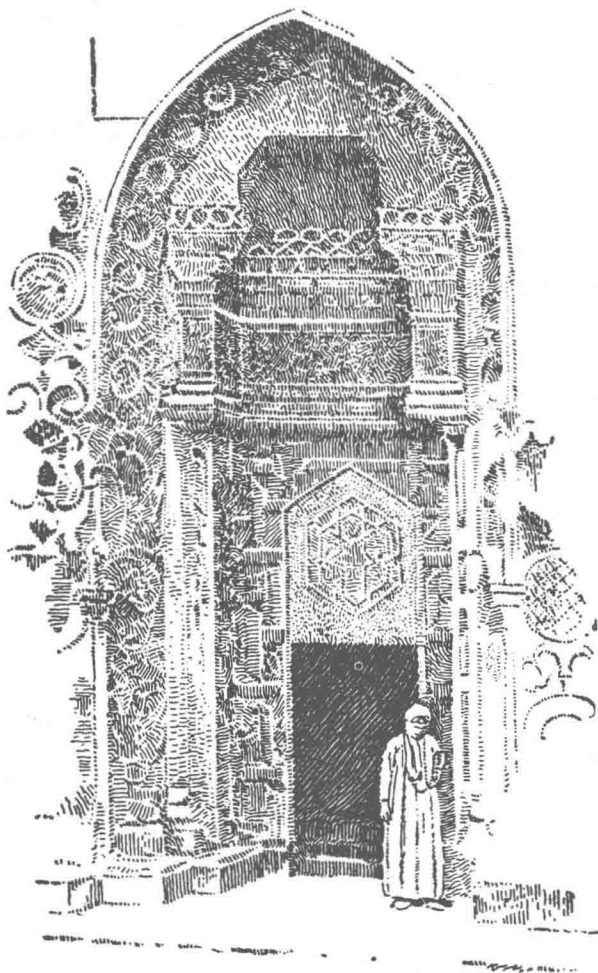
Woolen cloth which people used for clothing was made from the hair of sheep or goats. As it took the hair of a great many such animals to make a very little cloth, woolen cloth was expensive. The Arabs found out a way of making cloth from a plant, the cotton plant, which of course was much cheaper. Then in order to decorate the cloth and make it pretty and attractive, they stamped the plain cloth with wooden blocks shaped in different forms and dipped in color. This printed cloth that the Arabs invented was called *calico*.

Still another thing:

The Arabs made swords and knives of such wonderful steel that the blades could be bent double without breaking. The blades were said to be so keen they

could cut through the finest hair if floated on water, a thing that only the sharpest razor will do, and yet at the same time so strong that they could cut through a bar of steel. Such swords were made in the East at a place called Damascus, which is in Syria, and in the West at a place called Toledo, which is in Spain; and so these swords and knives were known as Damascus or Toledo blades. Unfortunately, no one now knows the Arabs' secret for making such marvelous blades. It is what is called a lost art.

Near where Babylon once was, the Arabs built a city named Baghdad. You have heard of it if you have ever read any of the *Arabian Nights*, for most of these stories were told about Baghdad. It was the eastern capital of the Muslims. There in Baghdad the Arabs built a great school that was famous for many, many years. At Cordova in Spain was the western capital of the Muslims,



Muslim veiled woman standing by Saracenic ornamental arch  
站在撒拉逊装饰风格的拱门旁戴着面纱的穆斯林妇女

and there they built another great school. Later, after Islam spread south of the Sahara Desert to West Africa, Muslims there built another wonderful school in a city called Timbuktu.

I might tell you many other things these people did—how they made clocks with pendulums to keep time—people had no real clocks before; how they started wonderful libraries of books; and so on—but this is enough for the present to show you what intelligent people they were.

The Arabs belong to the Semite family, the same family to which the Phoenicians and Jews belong. The Arabs were as clever as their cousins the Phoenicians, who, you remember, were very clever, but they were also as religious as their other cousins the Jews, who, you remember, were very religious.

The Muslims had ideas about women that are different from ours. Most thought it was immodest for a woman to show her face to men, and so every woman had to wear a thick veil which hid her face—all except her eyes—whenever she went out where there were men. With such a veil she could see but not be seen. Muslims believed their women would be protected by wearing the veil. Muslims also taught that one man might have up to four wives, if he could protect them all and care for them equally.

One other thing that the Muslims did was to copy and save the writings of the Greek poets and philosophers like Aristotle. Many of these were lost in Western Europe after the fall of Rome. You will see later that Muslim scholars saved these writings and gave them back to Europeans to study centuries later.

## 【中文阅读】

你大概读过《一千零一夜》。下面的故事是

### 阿拉伯时代

穆罕默德死后一百年间，穆斯林征服了中东和北非地区。此后不久，他们又征服了波斯和东边更远的地方。不久，他们的帝国就比以前的罗马帝国还庞大了。就中东和北非来说，这以后的几百年的确是阿拉伯的鼎盛时期。尽管穆斯林没能征服欧洲的大部分地区，可是多年来，欧洲人也从穆斯林那里学到了很多东西。

腓尼基人发明了我们文字的字母表，而阿拉伯人则发明了我们现在算数上用的数目字。1, 2, 3, 4, 等等，叫做阿拉伯数字。罗马人使用字母而不是数字：字母 V 代表 5, X 代表 10, C 代表 100, M 代表 1000, 等等。你想想一个罗马孩子要把以下这些数目加起来该有多难：

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{IV} \\
 \text{XII} \\
 + \text{MC} \\
 \text{XC II} \\
 \text{VII} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

我们不能像使用阿拉伯数字那样把这些数目排成纵行来相加。你如果想用罗马数字做乘法或除法，那就几乎不可能了，比如说：

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{MCV II} \\
 \times \text{X I X} \\
 \hline
 \end{array}$$

你偶尔可能会看到罗马数字还在使用——比如在钟面上——但是你每天在算术中使用的所有数字都是阿拉伯数字。

还有一件事：

阿拉伯人建造了很多漂亮的建筑物，这些建筑物看起来和希腊人、罗马人以及基督徒建的那些建筑物很不一样。这些建筑物的门、窗既不是方的也不是圆的，通常都是马蹄形的。在清真寺顶端，他们喜欢加上洋葱状的圆屋顶，在清真寺旁的角落，他们建起尖塔或光塔，穆安津在上面可以大声宣告祈祷的时间。他们用漂亮的马赛克和华美的图案装饰建筑物的墙壁。不过，穆斯林很小心，避免仿照任何自然物来做这些图案。因为他们的《古兰经》上有一条戒律，类似于基督教的“十诫”之一，“无论是天上、地上还是地下水里有的东西，你都绝不能仿制”。因为这条戒律，大多数穆斯林人从不画任何有生命的东西，既不画植物，也不画动物。如果画了，他们觉得自己就违反了戒律。因此他们用直线、曲线来设计图案，而不仿制任何自然物。这些图案被称作“阿拉伯式花饰”，虽然它们不像任何自然物，却常常很漂亮。

还有一件事：

在阿拉伯生长着一种小灌木，上面结着小小的浆果，浆果里面有种子。绵羊似乎很喜欢吃这种浆果，它们吃过浆果后显得很有活力。阿拉伯人自己也试着吃这种浆果的种子，也觉得精力充沛。于是，他们就把这些种子烘焙出来，再碾碎，放到水里煮开，做成一种饮料。这种饮料就是咖啡——咖啡是阿拉伯人发现的，现在全世界的人都喝咖啡。

还有一种饮料也是用浆果，通常是用葡萄做的，就是酒。穆斯林不喜欢人们饮酒后的表现，所以他们禁止任何穆斯林喝含有酒精成分的饮料，比如葡萄酒、啤酒或威士忌。

还有一件事：

人们以前用来做衣服的毛料布是用绵羊或山羊的毛制成的。因为要用很多羊的毛才能做成一小块布料，所以毛料布很昂贵。阿拉伯人发现了用一种植物，也就是棉花，来做布料的方法，这种布料当然就便宜多了。然后，为了装饰布料，让它看上去既漂亮又讨人喜欢，阿拉伯人又用各种形状的木块蘸上颜料在布上印出各种图案。阿拉伯人发明的这种印花布料叫“印花平布”。

还有一件事：

阿拉伯人用一种奇妙的钢材做刀和剑，这种刀即便刀身被弯个对折也不会断。据说，这种刀非常锋利，连漂在水中的极纤细的头发都能砍断，而这只有最锋利的剃刀才能做到，然而它同时又非常结实，甚至能砍断铁块。制作这种刀剑的地方，处在东部的大马士革，今天的叙利亚境内，另一处在西部的托莱多，今天的西班牙境内，因此这种刀剑被称作大马士革剑或托莱多剑。很不幸，现在没人知道阿拉伯人制作这种宝刀的秘诀了，这就是人们常说的一种失传的技艺。

在古代巴比伦城所在的地方附近，阿拉伯人建了一座城叫巴格达。如果你读过《一千零一夜》里的故事，你就听说过它，因为这些故事中大多数都说到过巴格达。巴格达是穆斯林的东部都城，阿拉伯人在那儿建了一所很重要的、名气经久不衰的学校。西班牙的科尔多瓦是穆斯林的西部都城，他们在那儿建了另一所重要的学校。后来，当伊斯兰教从撒哈拉沙漠的南边传播到西非之后，穆斯林在那里一个叫廷巴克图的城市又建了一所很棒的学校。

我可以再给你讲一些阿拉伯人做的事情——他们怎样用钟摆做成了走得很准的时钟——在这之前人们还没有真正的时钟；他们怎样建立了了不起的图书馆，等等——但是，我目前说的这些已足以告诉你阿拉伯人是多么聪明的民族。

阿拉伯人和腓尼基人、犹太人同属于闪米特族。阿拉伯人既和同族的腓尼基人一样聪明，你们记得吧，腓尼基人是很聪明的。同时，他们又像犹太人那样，笃信宗教，你们记得吧，犹太人是很虔诚的。

穆斯林对于女人的看法和我们不同。多数穆斯林认为女人在男人面前露出自己的脸是不端庄的，所以每个女人每当外出到有男人的地方都得戴上厚厚的面纱遮住自己的脸——只有眼睛是露在外面的。有了这个面纱，她们能看到别人，但自己不会被别人看到。穆斯林认为女人戴上面纱可以保护自己。他们还宣扬，一个男人可以娶多达四个妻子，只要他能把她们都保护好，并一视同仁地关心她们。

穆斯林做的另一件事就是抄写和保存像亚里士多德这样的希腊诗人和哲学家的著作。罗马帝国灭亡后，这些著作多数在西欧已经失传。你们在后面的章节中会读到，是穆斯林的学者们珍藏了这些著作，并在数百年之后把它们交还给欧洲人去学习和研究。

## Two Empires, Two Emperors

## 两个帝国，两个皇帝



EUROPE had been *in the dark* for three hundred years. You know what I mean. There were not enough educated people to make it bright.

The Arabs were bright, but they were not in Europe.

In 800 there was a man—a king—who by his might and power was able to join the pieces of Europe together once again to form a new Roman Empire. He was not a Roman, however, but a Frank. Franks, you remember, were one of the Germanic tribes that ruled Europe after the end of the Roman Empire. This king of the Franks was named Charles. He was a grandson of the Charles the Hammer who had stopped the Muslims at Tours, and he was called by the French name Charlemagne, which means Charles the Great.

Charlemagne at first was king of France alone, but he was not satisfied to be king of that country only. He soon conquered the countries on each side of him, parts of Spain and Germany. He built his capital in a place in Germany called Aachen, or Aix-la-Chapelle in French. At Aix-la-Chapelle there were warm springs which made fine baths, and Charlemagne was very fond of bathing and was a fine swimmer.

A large part of Italy was then ruled over by the pope. But the pope was having a good deal of trouble with some tribes in the north of Italy, and he asked Charlemagne if he wouldn't come down and conquer them. Charlemagne was quite ready and willing to help the pope, so he went over into Italy and easily settled those troublesome tribes. The pope was grateful to Charlemagne for this and wished to reward him.

Now, Christians everywhere used to make trips to Rome in order to pray at the great Church of St. Peter, which had been built over the spot where St. Peter had been crucified. Well, at Christmas time in the Year 800 Charlemagne paid such a visit to Rome. On Christmas day he went to the Church of St. Peter and was praying at the altar when the pope came forward and put a crown on his head. The pope then hailed him *Emperor*, and as the pope at that time could make kings and emperors, Charlemagne became emperor of Italy added to the other countries over which he already ruled. Charlemagne's empire was now like a new but smaller Roman Empire, but with this big difference: it was ruled



over not by a Roman, but by a Frank.

In those days, few people had any education, and hardly anyone could read or write. Charlemagne wanted an education. He was so anxious to know everything there was to be known. He wanted to be able to do everything anyone could do, but there was no one in his own country who knew enough or was able to teach him. In England, however, there was a very learned monk named Alcuin. He knew more than anyone else in Northern Europe, so Charlemagne invited Alcuin to come over from England and teach him and his people. Alcuin taught both Christian literature and also some Latin and Greek writings that had survived the years of warfare in Europe.

Charlemagne learned all these things very easily, but when it came to the simple matter of learning to write he found this very hard. He did learn to read, but he seemed unable to learn to write. It is said that he slept with his writing pad under his pillow and practiced whenever he awoke. Yet he never learned to write much more than his name. He did not begin to study until he was a grown man, but he kept on studying all the rest of his life. To make sure that others would have the opportunity he missed, Charlemagne ordered every monastery in his kingdom to open a school. He also opened a school right in his own palace. Why do you suppose he did that?

In spite of the fact that Charlemagne's daughters were princesses, he had them taught how to weave and sew and make clothes and cook just as if they had to earn their own living. Although Charlemagne was such a rich and powerful monarch and could have everything he wanted, he preferred to eat plain food and dress in plain clothes. He did not like all the finery that those about him loved. One day, just to make his nobles see how ridiculously dressed they were in silks and satins, he took them out hunting in the woods while a storm was going on, so that he could laugh at them. You can imagine how their silk and satin robes looked after being soaked with rain, covered with mud, and torn by briars.

Although his tastes were simple in matters of dress, he made his home a magnificent palace. He furnished it with gold and silver tables and chairs and other gorgeous furniture. He built in it swimming pools and a wonderful library and a theater and surrounded it with beautiful gardens.

At this time and all through the Dark Ages people had a strange way of finding out whether a person had stolen or committed a murder or any other crime. The person suspected was not taken into court and tried before a judge and a jury to see whether he was telling the truth and had done the thing or not. Instead he was made to carry a red-hot iron for ten steps, or to dip his arm into boiling water, or to walk over red-hot coals. If he were not guilty, it was thought