

BETWEEN OURSELVES

THE COVER

The picture on the Cover is that of the interior of the Hall of Ambassadors in the Alcazar (Ar. *al-Qasr*—Palace) at Seville, Spain.

The oldest part of the Alcazar of Seville was built by a Toledan architect for the Muwahhid Governor in the early part of the thirteenth century C.E. It was restored in the Muslim style by Mudejar workmen for King Peter the Cruel in 1353 C.E. The Alcazar of Seville is the most renowned Alcazar (Palace) the Moors built in Spain and is the only one surviving.

The picture gives an idea of the profuse and graceful decorations of the superb remains of the Alcazar.

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The picture on the cover is that of the world-famous building, Taj Mahal, better known as The Taj, at Agra, India. The Taj is a splendid tomb built by the Mogul Emperor, Shah Jehan (1627-1658 C.E.) for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, where he is also buried. It was begun in 1632 and was completed by 1650. The Taj is the most perfect example of Mogul style and "is by some considered the most beautiful building in the world" (*The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the University of Chicago Edition, 1950).

The tomb proper consists of a domed square white marble building raised on a terrace from the corners of which rise four slim white minarets. The whole is set in an exquisite garden surrounded by a red sandstone wall; a gate and a mosque are subsidiary elements in the composition.

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The picture on the cover is that of the façade of the gate of the Chahar Bagh Theological School at Isfahan, Persia. Originally built as a Mosque during the Safavid Shah 'Abbas (1587-1269 C.E.), it later became a *Madraseh* (school) and centre of religious teaching. It is now preserved by the Iranian Ministry of Education, and a part of the building is being used as a religious school where young scholars receive their training.

The picture is by 'Aziz Hatami, of P.N.P. News Agency, 145 Avenue Ferdowci, Teheran, Iraq. (Copyright reserved.)

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The picture on the cover is that of the celebrated Shrine of Imam 'Ali al-Riza, at Mashhad, Iran, who died in 818 C.E. in the reign of the Abbasid Caliph al-Mamun. This mausoleum has become the resort of Shi'ah pilgrims from all over the world. Imam 'Ali al-Riza is the only Shi'ah Imam to be buried in Iran.

The Golden Dome (seen in the foreground) above the tomb room, which is 34 feet square, rises to a height of 82 feet. At the command of the Emperor of Iran, Nasir al-Din Shah, the interior of the Dome was decorated with excellent mirror work and the walls are ornamented with broad panels of valuable tiles on which verses from the Qur'an and the Traditions are inscribed.

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The picture on the cover is taken from a painting by a Turkish artist, Mr. Munif Fahim. It depicts Sultan Muhammad the Conqueror entering Topkapi, Constantinople, on the 29th May 1453 C.E.

On the unfurled flag can be read the *Kalima* in Arabic, i.e., "There is but One God; Muhammad is His Messenger", and also a verse in Arabic from the Qur'an, "Verily We have given you a clear victory".

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BETWEEN OURSELVES THE COVER

The picture on the cover, which depicts Egyptian soldiers at prayers in the shadow of tanks, was taken at one of the military camps of Egypt. It represents the spirit of modern Egypt under General Muhammad Najeeb.

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Muhammad 'Ali, M.A., LL.B. (d. 1951), a Pakistani Muslim, was the first Muslim in the world of Islam to have successfully translated the Holy Qur'an into English. He is also the author of several other standard works on Islam both in English and Urdu.

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THE COVER

The picture on the cover is that of one of the oldest existing mosques in Indonesia, built in the 15th century when Islam was introduced into Indonesia by Arab Muslim settlers and merchants. This mosque, known as the "Old Mosque", is situated in Labuan, Sumatra. The slender columns and *décor* of the building reminds one of the mosques in North Africa and Spain.

THE CONTRIBUTORS

Al-Hajj Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din was the founder of the Working Muslim Mission and Literary Trust. To him goes the credit of giving a practical shape to the first regular organized effort at expounding Islam to the English-speaking peoples of the West.

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BETWEEN OURSELVES

THE COVER

The picture on the Cover is that of the famous piece of Arab architecture, the Giralda, at Seville, Spain. This tower, built in 1184 C.E., once formed part of a great mosque, begun in 1172 and completed in 1195. It now companions a vast cathedral. With the exception of the last storey, which serves as a belfry, the Giralda in its present form dates back to the days of the Muwahhid ruler of Spain, Abu Yusuf Ya'qub al-Mansur (1183-94 C.E.).

"According to Contreras, the Giralda is regarded as the most expressive monument of the Mohammedan dominions; and, despite all that has been said of its Moorish structure and primitive African style, it is in his opinion a perfect work of art" (A. F. Calvert, *Moorish Remains in Spain*, London, 1906).

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THE COVER

The picture on the cover is that of an oasis in the Kingdom of Libya.

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