

Hajji. Mohammed himself was not, I daresay, very different either in his appearance or his manner. And I could imagine a man of strong personality and great magnetic influence, and with the fiery zeal of an Eastern race so impressing his ideas upon those about him, as to produce an effect which may carry on for centuries after. Asiatic people live more together than inhabitants of colder regions. They constantly meet with one another. Half their day is spent in talking, and they naturally collect round a man who shows a commanding influence. They hang upon his words and lethargically accept the authority he insidiously exerts upon them. Men like this Arab Hajji exert but a passing influence. Others, like the so-called Mahdi in the Sudan, for years sway hundreds of thousands. Mohammed for twelve centuries has influenced millions of the human race. It is but a question of degree.

I had read in some book that at Turfan it was so hot that people lived in holes underground. I never quite believed it, but to-day I found it was a real fact. Here in the inn yard was a narrow flight of steps leading underground. I went down them, and found a room