

The "year of the elephant" had seen the defeat of the Christian army from Yemen, which came to attack Mecca and destroy the Kaaba. This victory was, to the young and ardent mind of Mohammed, prophetic of the political future of Mecca, and no doubt his ambition assigned himself the chief place in the coming conflict of Arabia against the Romans and the Persians.

Next came the religious factor. The times were ripe for religious leadership, and Mecca was already the center of a new movement. Some had rejected the old idolatry and entertained the hope that a prophet would arise from among them. There was material of all sorts at hand to furnish the platform of a new faith; it only required the builder's genius to call cosmos out of chaos. To succeed in doing this, it would be necessary to reject material also; to construct a comprehensive religion and a compromising religion, so as to suit Jew and Christian and idolater alike.

**Religious
Factor**

In the third place, there was the family factor; or, in other words, the aristocratic standing of Mohammed. He was not a mere "camel driver." His was the ruling clan of Mecca; Mecca was the center for all Arabia; and Mohammed's grandfather, Abd ul Muttalib, was the most influential and powerful man of that

**Family
Factor**