

Raymond Lull, The Morning Star of Mohammedan Missions

As one looks at the sky in the early morning, he may see one star shining very brightly. Then all the stars disappear. A little time passes and the sun rises above the horizon in all its glory.

Sometimes in history we find an individual who appears in this way, shines for a ^{while} ~~time~~ with a bright light, and then disappears with hardly a trace. Then a period of time passes, and a new era bursts into bright relief.

Such a star was John Wyclif. After Wyclif's death most of his influence was destroyed. Many of his followers were killed. His body was dug up from the grave and burned, and the ashes thrown into the river. It looked as if Wyclif had been a meteor flashing across the sky, leaving no lasting effect of the views that he had held. More than a century passed; then the teachings of Luther ^{entered} ~~came into~~ England, and the great English Reformation came into its own. Later on, people looked back and saw how similar it all was to what Wyclif had taught more than a century before. Wyclif became known as the Morning Star of the Reformation.

Today we are going to glance at one who could be truly called the Morning Star of Mohammedan Missions. Raymond Lull was born about ¹²³⁵ ~~1230~~, on the island of Majorca, off the coast of Spain. Born to a wealthy and noble family, he found an easy path marked out for himself to prominence in the Spain of his day. Soon he became a prominent figure at the court of the King of Aragon. To the age of 30 he lived in wild, free abandon, a life of luxury and of sensual pleasure.

Shortly after Lull reached the age of 30 God spoke to him. One day as he was scribbling a licentious verse he seemed to see vividly before him the