

## (1) The Scene Prior To Islam

It was a desolate land: sandy, barren, and unfriendly  
The home of the Arabs; wild ferocious and manly  
They worshipped the idols; they loved to fight  
Life to them was wine, women and might  
The number of wives, the cattle they owned,  
The number of slaves, one's house adorned,  
Was a sign of rank in wealth and might;  
It was a society, where Might was Right.  
Two qualities they had, which were good  
The guests they honored, with best of food  
Poetry to them, was an art supremely sublime  
They were literary geniuses of their time.  
They killed female babes, they buried them alive  
They married the widows, their father's wives  
Vengeance was a passion, cruel the strife  
These sons of desert, such was their life.  
Morals they had none; wild was their lust  
Women were cattle, treated like dust  
Enjoyment of life was their sole goal  
Woman, they believed, had no soul.  
They had no belief in the life Hereafter  
Life to them was all fun and laughter  
Prophets had come and prophets had gone  
Still, this land was of truth shorn.  
Judaism was dead; Christianity was in name  
Sickly and forlorn, the world remained  
Vengeance, to them, was an article of faith  
Blindly, they relished their creed of hate.  
The priests were interpreters of heavenly laws

They commanded respect and were held in awe  
Things that were unlawful, to them were allowed  
A privileged class; they were haughty and proud.  
In span of four thousand and odd years  
Innumerable religions had been reared  
With passage of time, they were polluted  
Beyond recognition, each got diluted.  
The true religions were only in name  
It was virtually a devils reign  
Truth was at a discount; honesty had fled  
Virtue was scoffed at; goodness was dead.  
This land was thus chosen for God's last message  
It was the crossroad of international passage  
The last of message was thus destined,  
To stay forever and cover all mankind.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.al-islam.org/sorrow-and-sufferings-noorali-s-merchant/1-scene-prior-islam>