

dukes did not take Otto's moves lightly and the sordid report of some of the papal officers was ended more than once by natural means in unnatural expression...you should be able to figure it out!

The continued interference by Germanic leaders led to a crisis in the papacy during the reign of the German king, Henry III (1039-1056). As a ruler he was touched by some of the Cluniac reforms and at the synod of 1046 he succeeded in having three papal claimants deposed: Benedict IX, twelve years old and a carryover from the former German leader who had been driven from Rome, Sylvester III who had sold the papacy to John Gratian...a rich man who assumed the name Gregory VI and planned to clean things up but was deposed with the others. The removal of these three questionable persons resulted in the election of Clement II, a reforming pope who succeeded in bringing some health to the institution in the next few years. His successor (Leo IX, 1049-1054) continued this work under the aegis of Henry III, in spite of the fact that Sylvester III, not willing to take his deposition happily, continued to act like a pope and claimed to be such. This was not a good period for the papacy but Henry III, in spite of all else, seems to have had a more spiritual interest in the church and some of his pressures were to that end. Governmental interference in the long run could only harm the church and would not be able to help it. The real reform would have to be internally developed by the Spirit of God or it would not come at all, no matter how much kings and prelates talked about wanting it.

The Germanic kings will continue for some time but 1054 is the point at which this part of our material terminates so we will leave them, and some very interesting Roman bishops, until a later page.

V.1.c

Islam

The Coming of Islam

Muhammed, the Prophet

Arabian by birth, the Prophet of Islam was born of merchant parents about 570 AD. His father died when he was young and he was raised in the merchant household of an uncle. His marriage at 24 to the wealthy widow, Khadija, brought him into a more influential merchandising sphere and he prospered. His education was spare and he was formally illiterate. A surviving child, Fatima, was born to this marriage.