

INSIGHT ISLAMICUS

AN ANNUAL JOURNAL OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN ISLAM

Vol.13

ISSN-0975-6590

2013



Shah-i-Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies

University of Kashmir, Srinagar - 190006

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The Director

S.H. Institute of Islamic Studies,
University of Kashmir,
Srinagar - 190006

Price : 400 I N R Foreign : 40 U S D

Published by:

The Director, S.H. Institute of Islamic Studies
University of Kashmir, Srinagar - 190006

ISSN-0975-6590

Printed at:

Mehak Printing Press
Naid Kadal, Srinagar
Contact : +91-9419063159

Designed by:

Professional Graphics, K.U. Campus, Srinagar
Contact: +91-9419974394

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VOL. 13

ISSN-0975-6590

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Insight Islamicus, is a peer reviewed and indexed journal (indexed in *Index Islamicus*, UK) published annually by Shah-i- Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir Srinagar. In it articles research papers, review articles, research notes and book reviews relating to a variety of themes of Islam and Muslim world: history, philosophy, tasawwuf (mysticism), religious sciences (*Qur'an*, Haidth and Law), social sciences, modern trends in Islam, comparative religion, orientalism, area studies, etc. are published. Scholars from all over the world are cordially invited to contribute to the journal.

Submissions must conform to the following guidelines:

- It should be the author's original research and a simultaneous submission to other journal is not accepted.
- The article should be between 6000-10000 words.
- References should be marked sequentially in the text and typed at the end of the manuscript in order of appearance with corresponding Arabic numerals.
- All submissions should be in MS-Word, double speed on single-sided numbered page.
- The cover page should carry the title, name of the author(s), current university or professional affiliation and the complete mailing address including e-mail and phone number of the authors.
- Both the hard copy and soft copy of the article/book review is to be submitted on following address:
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- Opinions or statements expressed in the articles are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or the publisher. Material published in *Insight Islamicus* is copyright in its favour.

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Editorial

This is our 13th year of publishing *Insight Islamicus* which we have started in 2001. It is an annual journal of the institute devoted to publish research papers, review articles, research notes and book reviews relating to Islamic civilization, religious and social sciences, Islamic philosophy, tasawwuf (mysticism), law, area studies and comparative religion. We feel pleasure that the journal is widely appreciated by its readers and scholars from diverse disciplines contribute to it across the country and abroad.

The present issue features eleven articles, comprising roughly two sections. The first section contains articles relating to social, political and economic themes/ issues of Islam and the second is devoted to a variety of contribution made by Islamic personalities.

The first section begins with Prof. Hamida Bano's critical paper on Muslims and Islamic feminism. At the outset it discusses three general types of feminist theories (Marxist, Postmodernist and Traditionalist) and makes a critical view of Muslim feminist theories underscoring traditional stand about the status of woman. The author argues the traditional views do not explore properly the issue of woman emancipation in the new predicament of (modernity and postmodernity) and makes Muslim women to seek remedy in "secular feminism," hence a discourse of much scope than the conventional one is needed to overcome the present alienation of people from Islam. The next article is from Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi on Muslim sufi's concept of social service. While illustrating the social service concept in the Qur'an and Hadith, the author gives a detailed description of the traits of social service found in Muslim Sufis down the ages.

The third paper of the section is from Dr. Irshad Ahmad Shah on the Non-Alignment Movement. It makes an analytical discussion on the emergence of Non-Alignment Movement, its principles and criticises the hegemonic policies of USA manipulated through UNO and NATO. The author argues for rejection of 'new world order' on account of its threatening human rights and world peace. This follows by Dr. Shafiq Ahmad Shiekh's paper on Pluralism in Islam. It discusses nature of Islamic pluralism in the light of Qur'an and the Prophet's (SAAS) *Sunnah* by highlighting respect, tolerance and freedom of people belonging to other religions or cultures. Dr. Shiekh elaborates that coercion and persecution

of non-Muslims for accepting Islam is not allowed in Islam, instead due rights and liberties are granted to them to live together peacefully and prosperously (rejecting the theory of S. Huntington's theory of clash of civilization).

The last paper of the section is from Adil Zahoor. It deals with the development of Islamic financial system in the present times illustrating its global successes empirically. The paper provides also an analytical description of the products of Islamic financial system that offers an alternative to the conventional financial system.

The first paper of the second section is from Dr. Abdul Rashid Bhat on Bediuzzaman Nursi. It discusses Nursi's approach to Faith in Islam in the context of his *Risalae-i-Nur*. While explaining the vitality of Faith in the system of knowledge and culture and its approach by Muslim scholars down the history of Islam in terms of *ilm-al-kalam*. Dr. Bhat highlights distinctive nature of Nursi's treatment specially focusing on its ontological, epistemological, and social features.

Next is the second part of Dr. Obaidullah's paper on sectarian and peace building process, illustrating the contribution of Sayyid Muahammad Ashraf Kacchochhawi in it. The first part of the paper was published in the last issue of our journal, 2012. This is followed by Dr. Abdul Majid Khan's article on legacy of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani (RA) in Kashmir. It provides an analytical description of the significance of reviving Hamadani's legacy in the present predicament of Kashmiri society which will lead towards 'a stable, prosperous and spiritually rich culture'.

Next two papers of the section are from Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Sheikh Jameil Ali. Dr. Manzoor Ahmad's paper treats ethical philosophy of Sayyid Ali Hamadani and discusses a variety of his ethical concepts minutely relating to human nature, ways of virtues and vices and attainment of *sa'adah*. Dr. Sheikh Jameil Ali's paper gives a critical description of Sayyid Ahmad Barelewi's thought and movement. The author here highlights Sayyid Ahmad's efforts (as a disciple of Shah Abdul Aziz) of launching Jihad against the Sikh injustice in north-western region of India and the British rule and though the struggle, as he argues, could not succeed yet made an impact up on the Indian society in many ways. The section closes with the article of Dr. Arif Qazi which provides an historical account of the advent of Islam in Tibet, the highest region on earth. The article is well documented.

We express deep sorrow over the sudden demise of Prof. Muhammad Ishaq Khan who passed away on 5th April, 2013. Prof. Khan was an internationally renowned scholar of medieval and modern Muslim history of the Indian subcontinent. He taught History in the University of Kashmir for more than three decades and served in the capacity of Head, Department of History, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Dean, Academic Affairs, Director Centre of Kashmir Studies and lastly Director, Centre of Shiekh al- Alam Studies. Besides serving as Head of our department for few years, Prof. Khan remained a permanent member of Advisory Editorial Board of the present journal. He was a serious, prolific and committed academician who made a distinguishing contribution to Indian history and specially to Kashmir history. Among his acclaimed works include, *History of Srinagar 1846-1947. A Study in Socio-cultural Change*, (3rd edition), *Perspectives on Kashmir. Historical Dimensions* (1983), *Kashmir's Transitions to Islam: The Role of Muslim Rishis*, (4th Edition 2005), *Experiencing Islam* (1977) and *Dictionary of Sufism in South Asia* (20) besides scores of research articles published in international journals. Prof. Khan's history writing is distinctive of creative objectivity, intellectual vigour and sagacity and it recalls Muslim tradition of historiography represented by Ibn Khaldun and Allama Shibli Numani. Really the death Prof. Khan is an irreparable loss to world of academia particularly to the new genre of Muslim history scholarship. May Allah shower mercy upon the soul of the deceased.

In the end we express our deep thanks to our contributors for sending their contributions for the present issue of the Journal. We shall always welcome scholarly papers relating to the field of Islamic Studies and allied subjects for publication in our journal. Thanks are also due to Miss Sabiya Jan Research Fellow, who initially assisted us in composing the material of the Journal and Ms. Mahak printes for the excellent printing of the journal.

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