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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*, *Hadith* and *Fiqh*), 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 space 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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Editorial

This journal begins with Prof. Muhammad Ishaq Khan's key note address which he delivered at our three day international seminar on Shah-i-Hamadan held from 13th-15th March, 2011. Prof. Khan mentions that there is much exaggeration about market oriented courses in the present days and little thinking is made about true sustainable human development which cannot be possible without a focus on ethical education. In the backdrop of Sufi legacy of Islam, he touches upon the advent of Shah-i-Hamadan in Kashmir and highlights his impact upon both elite and common people in terms of building an Islamic cultural society. The address raises the question about calling Islam as an ideology which to him hampers its spirituality. The exploration of this aspect of Islam is of great importance and, according to Prof. Khan, Shah-i-Hamadan's Islamic legacy of Kashmir can be better understood from this perspective alone.

The next paper is from Prof. Hamid Nasim Rafiabadi about Muslim Sufis' role in social service. It is the second and last part of the paper and the first part of it was published in the previous issue of our journal. In this second part the author highlights the role of Bayazid Bistami, Ma'ruf Karkhi and Sheikh Nizam-uddin Auliyah. It is followed by an article of Abdul Rashid Bhat on sources and values of Prophet Muhammad's (SAAS) educational system in comparative manner. It first analyses briefly the conventional (Western) philosophy of education which is followed by a discussion on the sources of Islamic education including *naqli* (transmitted) and *aqli* (rational) sources and highlights the general values/ principles of the system along with the role of *Shari'ah* which make it spiritually, empirically and socially viable. Prof. Bashir Ahmad's article is on Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe a renowned German poet of 18th century, and discusses the poet's interest in Islam by admiring its doctrine of 'oneness of God' and Prophet Muhammad's (SAAS) truthfulness which is reflected in Goethe's poetry. The author quotes Goethe's German poetry along with its English translation in the article that can make the reader to understand the poet's view of Islam closely.

Next section of the journal contains three articles from Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Roshan Ara and Dr. Shaikh Jameil Ali. All these three papers deal with the contributions of three prominent personalities in their specific fields of interest. Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Mohd Lateef Khan's joint paper makes a descriptive analysis of the views of Baqir al-Sadr, the 20th century Muslim religious thinker of Iraq, about capitalist economy. The paper discusses al-Sadr's analysis of broader aspects of economy in terms of its scientific and doctrinal nature and while focusing on excessive freedom and growth production brings out the failures of this

system in rendering happiness and welfare in the society which, according to al-Sadr, can only be achieved by laying its basis on religious and moral values. Dr. Shaikh Jameil Ali's paper surveys Shah Wali-Ullah's socio-political role in the light of his essential writings and highlights his reformative endeavors as well his impact on the subsequent Muslim developments. Dr. Roshan Ara explores philosophy of mystery in Gabriel Marcel, the modern French Philosopher and playwright, in the background of its legacy on Plato, Aristotle and John Hick and touches upon here issues of faith, being, death, reality and ontology in the light of Marcel's main writings.

The last part of the journal comprises the papers of Dr. Gh. Hassan Mir; Bilal Ahmad and Intizar Ahmad (jointly authored) and Shahla Manzoor. Dr. Mir's paper on lifelong learning, provides an interesting discussion on the importance of knowledge in a developing society and enhancement of skill development through the mechanism of 'lifelong learning' to face the present challenges of unemployment and distress across the globe specifically in India. The jointly authored paper of Dr. Bilal Ahmad and Intizar Ahmad examines performance of students having Arabic at UG level in Islamic Studies subject as compared to students who do not have taken it at UG level. The study is made by using the empirical method and it concludes that there is no significant increase found in academic performance of such Arabic knowing students than the other students in the subject. The paper finally provides some recommendations for providing particular methods to promote and improve this Arabic knowledge among students for the best use of the subject. Shahla Manzoor's article provides a descriptive analysis of the spread of Islam in Volga Bulgaria in 10th century and subsequent formation of it as a first Muslim state of North Euroasia depicting considerable flourishing of its cultural and political traditions. At the end of this section is a brief note on the term *Wali* by Sadat Ask and it provides the interpretation of various meanings of the term used in the Qur'an.

We express our thanks to all the contributors for their valuable contributions to this issue of the journal. We also seek articles from scholars across the world in the field of Islamic studies and allied subjects for our forthcoming issues of the journal. We also thank Sabiya Jan, Research Assistant for the initial composing of the material of this journal and Mr. Shahzad Bashir, Junior Research Fellow for his assistance in reading the proofs of it.

Editors