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Editorial

We feel immense pleasure to bring out the second issue of *Insight Islamicus*. The welcome and response that its first issue received from the readers and academicians has been encouraging beyond our expectations. *Insight Islamicus* is the annual journal of our Institute devoted to dissemination of academic and research contributions of scholars, both from India and abroad, relating to Islamic Thought, Sciences, Culture and History.

This issue begins with Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Khan's interesting article on the evolution of *Shari'ah*-consciousness in Kashmir. While providing a precise critical survey of the *Shari'ah*-thought development during the early period of Islamic history and the beginning of conversions to Islam in Kashmir through the appealing piety of the sufis, Dr. Khan focuses on Sayyid 'Ali Hamadani and gives the interpretation of meaning of *Shari'ah* and Sayyid 'Ali's role in its realisation. Next we have an essay by Dr. G.R. Malik which is a comprehensive and insightful presentation of the all-embracing and revolutionary achievement of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)—the Mercy unto Mankind—in transforming the evil-ridden society of the Arabs into a just, egalitarian and prosperous society by means of 'the moral purification of the individuals'.

Dr. Mumtaz 'Ali provides us with a superb analysis of research methods in Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage Disciplines in the light of the Qur'an and the interpretation of some of the modern scholars. While explaining the meaning and scope of these disciplines and objectives of Islamic research, Dr. Mumtaz contends that it is through integration of deductive and inductive methods in Islamic research, emphatically enjoined in the Qur'an, that the dynamic Islamic thought and civilization can be revived. Iqbal serves as a source for Mumtaz 'Ali's thesis

and interestingly our next contributor, Dr. Altaf Hussain Ahanger, treats this luminary of modern Muslim world exhaustively in his article on Iqbal's Approach to Legislation in Islam. He makes a critical and systematic analysis of Dr. Iqbal's assertion that the possible way out of legislation in the present times is through Muslim assemblies where both the modern educated representatives and the '*ulamā*' have a role to play although the latter's role is a temporary one until those who know the subtleties of Islamic law become available. Dr. Ahanger explains that the approach of Iqbal is shared, somewhat differently, by the contemporary scholars and the Pakistan judiciary.

Dr. S.M. Yunus Gilani provides a vivid and critical assessment of the role of some leading intellectuals ('*ulamā*') of Egypt (1798-1870). In the backdrop of the French occupation of Egypt and the resistance to it, Dr. Gilani penetrates into biographies and the character of the leading Egyptian intellectuals like al-Jabarti, al-Sharqawi, Sayyid 'Umar Makram and al-Tahtawi and assesses their historic socio-political role and the initiation of modern Muslim renaissance in Egypt, leading to far-reaching consequences. *Da 'wah* is the theme of Dr. Jamil Hashmi's article wherein he gives an analytical and semantic description of *da 'wah* in the light of Qur'an and the interpretation of some renowned Muslim and non-Muslim scholars and highlights its ethical and social implications. Dr. Naseem Ahmad Shah studies religious developments in Central Asia during the Saljuq period and discusses the Sunni revival that was sponsored by the Saljuq Turks. The author also discusses critically the emergence of Sufi *silsilas* and the role of Sh'ia and Isma'ilis. Dr. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi in his article on Ibn Taymiyah, focuses on his famous work *al-Radd 'ala al-Mantiqiyyīn* and makes its assessment in the context of Greek trends of philosophy and Ghazzali's views. His illustration about Ibn Taymiyah's refutation of Greek logic, is accompanied by documentary evidence and presents the latter as the founder of logic in the history of philosophy. In his article on Shah Wali Allah, Dr. Abdur Rashid Bhat analyses Shah Wali Allah's concept of human nature and society, focusing on the latter's *magnum opus*, *Hujjat Allāh al-Bāligah*. While discussing the dimensions of metaphysical world in the

Shah's thought, Dr. Bhat explains the distinctive nature and status of man in the context of the Qur'anic terms of *amānah*, *taklīf*, *tadbīr* and *ruh*, and the nature of society is treated in the context of his *irtifāqāt*, forming the universal paradigm for evolving a civilized society.

In the last portion of the issue, we have five articles devoted to important themes of Islamic history and thought. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat's article on the sources of Kashmir history (15th to 18th century) provides an interesting overview of its various important sources by classifying them usefully into several categories. Sheikh Jamiel Ali studies, in his article, the thought of al-Ghazzali and Ibn Taymiyah and highlights the trends of reformation and integration in it vis-a-vis their impact. It is followed by Afroz Ahmad Bisati's article that treats the impact of Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi on the Mughal polity analytically in the light of the latter's *maktūbāt* (letters). The other two articles are from Latif Ahmad Fazili and Nazir Ahmad Zargar on the two diverse current issues. The former provides us with a fascinating description of "pollution" from Islamic viewpoint while the latter's article discusses the globalisation concept vis-a-vis the contemporary global society.

We express our deep sorrow on the demise of the world-famous scholar in Islamic Studies, Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah on December 17, 2003 in Jacksonville, Florida, US. In him we have lost a distinguished scholar and a dedicated researcher, who is the first translator of the Qur'an in French and the author of more than 200 books and papers on Islam, most of them deal with the *sīrah* of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), Islamic history and political administration. Since this issue was already in print we could not devote a full article to this veteran scholar of Islam and hope to do so in our forthcoming issue.

We would like to express our thanks to all contributors to this issue and also to those scholars and readers who sincerely welcomed our first issue by sending letters of appreciation. We again invite the contributions and co-operation from scholars and academicians all over the world to maintain and enrich the standard of this journal.

Editors