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Insight Islamicus, a distinguished, double-blind peer-reviewed journal, is openly accessible and indexed in the renowned *Index Islamicus*, London, UK. Published annually (since 2001) by the Shah-i-Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, the journal is dedicated to scholarly exploration of scientific, epistemological, ontological, social, and cultural issues prevalent in today's global landscape, with a particular focus on the Muslim world. Embracing an interdisciplinary and non-sectarian approach, *Insight Islamicus* invites contributions offering fresh and nuanced perspectives on contemporary intellectual, social, and cultural issues. Welcoming research across diverse themes like history, philosophy, *tasawwuf*, religious sciences, social sciences, interfaith dialogue, comparative religions, and more, the journal extends an open invitation to scholars worldwide, fostering a dynamic exchange within the global academic community.

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- ❖ It should be the author's original research and a simultaneous submission to other journals is not accepted.
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- ❖ The cover page should carry the title, name of author(s), current university or professional affiliation and the complete mailing address including e-mail id and phone number of the author(s).
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Plagiarism or copyright infringement may sometimes occur due to a lack of understanding, and not necessarily through fraudulent intent. As such, the editors in accordance with the University of Kashmir policy of antiplagiarism can have submissions scanned using plagiarism detection software to check a paper's originality before sending it for review.

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EDITORIAL

We are honored to present the 23rd edition of our annual journal, *Insight Islamicus*, dedicated to rigorous studies and research in Islamic Studies. The journal serves as a platform for the publication of scholarly research papers, review articles, and book reviews, encompassing diverse interdisciplinary themes within the field. The current issue features eleven papers authored by scholars specializing in Islamic Studies and other branches of Social Sciences. These contributions delve into pivotal themes of theological, economic, social, and historical significance, reflecting the journal's commitment to fostering in-depth exploration and understanding of multifaceted aspects within the realm of Islamic scholarship.

The volume commences with the article entitled *Sufis Transforming Societies: A Study of Mir Sayyid 'Ali Hamadani's Da'wab Work in Kashmir*, wherein Yatoo and Akhter recognize the influence of 'Alau al-Dawlah al-Simnani and Ibn al-'Arabi on Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani's missionary efforts in persuading Kashmir's Shaivite monists about monotheism. In the subsequent paper, *Teaching and Research on the Qur'anic Studies (as a Sub-genre of Islamic Studies): A Survey of Some Selected Indian Universities*, Parray provides an overview of Qur'anic studies in Indian universities, offering insights into the teaching, research, and theses related to the subject. Parray has taken some prominent universities of India—from Jammu & Kashmir to Kerala—which offer UG/ PG in Islamic Studies, with a course, or part of a course or topics, about the study of the Qur'an and the Qur'anic worldview and the research activities of some of these Universities and provides a list of MPhil and PhD Theses related to Qur'anic Studies. In the next paper *Gender Relations in Islam: A Textual (Nusus) Study*, Khan explores Qur'an as a primary source of Islamic law in suggesting a distinctive model of gender relations and to contribute a nuanced understanding that may diverge from conventional narratives, she offers an alternative lens to assess and address the complex dynamics of gender discrimination.

In the next article, *Syncretism in the Religious Architecture of Kashmir*, Nabi explores religious architecture as a unifying force for diverse belief systems, fostering a peaceful coexistence and envisioning a prosperous future. It emphasizes that this is not just a historical occurrence but a forward-looking vision embracing rich diversity. The focus is on understanding the varied aspects of Kashmir's religious architecture, the syncretization process, and tracing major influences. The following article, authored by Sheikh and Wani, entitled *Early Muslim Scholars' Contribution to Psychology and Modern Challenges for Muslim Psychologists*, delves into the significant contributions of early Muslim scholars to the field of psychology. The article also outlines the challenges faced by Muslim psychologists in navigating Western psychological paradigms for both professionals and clients. In the

subsequent article, *Contribution of Muslim Scholars to Comparative Religions: A Study of Some Selected Works*, Malik explores the selective Muslim scholars' works on comparative religion, their approach and methodologies that have considerable bearings and alternatives to the contemporary approaches to religious studies.

Moving further, the next contribution, *Contextualizing "Langer Khana" in Tasawwuf: A Study of Some Selected Langer Khanas of Indo-Pak Sub-continent*, authored by Sofi, highlights the distinctive features of Langer Khanas and their role in serving the humanity irrespective of the color, caste, creed, and other affiliations with special focus of Langer Khanas of Indo-Pak Sub-continent. In the next article, *The Emergence of Transnational Islam: A Study with Special Reference to North American Muslim Community*, Demirovic explores the aftermath of the Caliphate's collapse and the subsequent rise of transnational Islam in North America. The study underscores the enduring significance of transnational Muslim identity within the broader Islamic landscape, offering insights into the evolving role and cultural influences shaping the North American Muslim community's participation in contemporary transnational Islamic practices. The subsequent contribution, *Issues in Modern Arab Thought: Some Methodological Considerations*, co-authored by Qadri, Lone, and Khan, presents a comprehensive analysis of contemporary Arab-Islamic intellectual history. In tackling the extensive and intricate nature of this historical discourse, along with its foundational theories and methodologies, the study aspires to furnish a thorough and detailed overview. Moreover, it endeavors to delineate the core issues intrinsic to Islamic thought by delving into the perspectives of Arab intellectuals who represent diverse intellectual traditions.

In their joint contribution *Green Path: Navigating Contemporary Environmental Crises and Developing an Islamic Perspective*, Shahzad and Parrey scrutinize the detrimental effects of consumerism on the environment, subsequently delving into the Islamic cosmic order that assigns humans the role of trustees (*Khalifah*) for the cosmos. Additionally, it explores the ethical significance of environmental conservation in relation to *maqasid al-Shari'ah*, identifying the preservation of the environment as one of its objectives (*Hifz al bi'ah*). In the next article *Impact of Modern Technological Advancements on Religious Traditions, Practices and Rites – With Special Focus on Islam*, Kumar and Anjum provides insights into the contemporary dynamics of religion and technology, offering a glimpse into how faith is adapting to the digital age while also prompting contemplation on the preservation of religious authenticity in an evolving technological landscape. Ganai, Nabi, and Jan's article *Contemporary Relevance of Prophetic Method in Women Education* delves into the importance of women's education within Islam, particularly drawing insights from the Prophetic instructional methods. It underscores the enduring relevance of these principles in addressing the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim women while pursuing their academic carriers. As societies evolve, Islam's guidance on women education and gender equality offers a timeless framework.

In the subsequent contribution, *Rationalist Tendencies within Islam in the Early and the Modern Era: A Study of the Origin, Development, and Significance of the Mutazilite Scholasticism*, Wani explores the rise of the Mutazilites as a formidable group committed to defending Islamic principles through philosophical, logical, and rational arguments. Furthermore, the article draws parallels between the contemporary era, where Muslim Modernists and Neo-Mutazilites address critiques aimed at modernity, modern philosophy, and empirical science, highlighting similarities in methodology and objectives between the early Mutazilites and modern Muslim Rationalists. This is followed by Shiekh and Bhat's joint contribution, *Exploring the Spiritual Legacy of Shaikh al-'Ālam: A Comprehensive Sufi Analysis*. The article explores the life, teachings, and impact of Shaikh al-'Ālam, Kashmir's prominent religious and spiritual figure, placing his contributions within the broader spectrum of Sufi traditions through an analysis of his spiritual doctrines and an investigation into the influences that shaped his Sufi worldview. In the last contribution, *Understanding Rabi'ah Basari's Sufi Thought with Special Focus on Divine Love, Sincerity and Repentance*, Kumar examines Rabi'ah's contributions, manifested through her conceptual elucidations of religious ideas and the establishment of Sufi doctrines that played a pivotal role in fostering selflessness and sincerity in the pursuit of Divine love. In summary, the current edition of *Insight Islamicus* delivers a thorough and varied exploration of diverse facets within Islam. The articles offer distinctive insights into contemporary challenges confronting the Muslim world, enriching the wider conversation on Islamic thought and application. We anticipate that these scholarly contributions will play a pivotal role in perpetuating ongoing dialogues and inspiring further research in these vital domains. Lastly, we extend our sincere appreciation to all the authors who selected *Insight Islamicus* as the platform for their scholarly endeavors. The constructive feedback from our readers is highly valued, and we eagerly look forward to scholarly contributions for in-depth inquiries into crucial themes within the expansive field of Islamic Studies.

Editors

