

## **Seminar on Islam and Science**

On Sunday, March 15, 2015, Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) organized a seminar on Islam and Science at ADM LT 1, IIUM. Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, the immediate past President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, the founder Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University (BoU) & Southeast University, the founding Chairman of Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT) and the former Professor of Physics at the University of Dhaka was the keynote speaker in the seminar. Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid Moten, Department of Political Science, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, IIUM was present in the seminar as Chair.

The keynote speaker, Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, presented a very nice paper. He said, it is to say that the future belongs to knowledge. Then, why the Muslims are so poor and why they are backward in acquiring knowledge & science? he asked the audience. He also asked, does it mean, Islam does not give due emphasis in acquiring knowledge and in alleviating poverty?

He stated, the first five Ayets what revealed on Prophet (SAAS) at the very beginning did pay emphasis first on reading, then on creation of human beings, that means on medical science and then on Pen. After a certain interval, when revealed again on Prophet (SAAS), Pen was mentioned there. But it is very painful to say that a major part of Muslim does not know how to use Pen? The word 'Ilm' has come in many places of Qur'an. There are many Hadiths where the emphases of Ilm have been described. To acquire Ilm is mandatory to all Muslims, both male and female. It is advised to visit even the distance country like China to acquire knowledge, if necessary. There are 750 more Ayets in Qur'an which are anyhow relevant to Science. But one may feel wondered by thinking that there is no conflict between Qur'an and modern science, rather they are very much concordance to each other. Because Qur'an has been revealed with truth. All things have been created with truth. And it is the duty of Scientists only to discover that truth. No scientists could invent a system; they only discover the system that already exists in. To discover this truth, many signs and symptoms have been mentioned repeatedly in Qur'an. Dr. Ali quoted from the book- The Bible, the Qur'an and Science of Maurice Bucaille that there is not a single verse in the Holy Qur'an which is assailable from the scientific point of view.

Prof Ali then came to the first point again why the Muslims are so poor and why they are backward in acquiring knowledge & science? Giving answer of the question, he told that acquiring knowledge is the solution of poverty and to do better in science & technology. When Europe was in the darkness of ignorance, the Muslims over years enlightening with science & knowledge led the world in that time. The Muslims have to face again this truth. We, the Muslims, have to use the Pen (knowledge) increasingly and also have to obey Qur'an.

If we could keep Qur'an in one hand and Pen in another hand, then ignorance will be removed soon and there will have no poverty at all.

A.N.M Ehsanul Haque, Educationist and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Tariqur Rahman, Kulliyah of Science, IIUM delivered their speeches as Panelist. Earlyyear Mr. M. Abdul Aziz, Executive Director of BIIT delivered the welcoming remarks.

A total of 120 delegates participated in the seminar, mostly were Bangladeshi teachers, PhD researchers & students of different levels studying in IIUM and other universities of Malaysia. The participants appreciated and requested for organizing such programs in regular basis.

There was a Question and Answer session in which the audience had the opportunity to share their thoughts, relevant queries related to Islam & science, and sought for clarification regarding his views.

**Mahfuzar Rahman**

Assistant Director

Research & Publication, BIIT

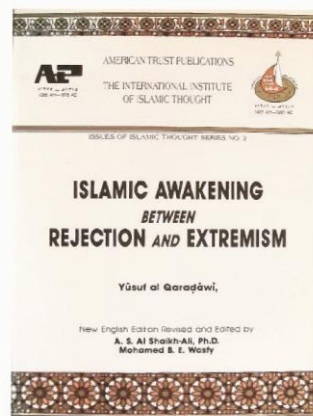
E-mail: rahmanru\_pops@yahoo.com

## **Islamic Awakening Between Rejection and Extremism**

**By: Yusuf Al-Qaradawi**

### **About this book**

In this thoughtful and important book examines the worldwide revival of interest in Islam and attempts to explain why this interest has led so many among the younger generation of Muslims to tread the path of intolerance and rigid interpretation. An older and more experienced voice, he articulates the wisdom brought on by maturity, sound scholarship, and a deep understanding of both the letter and the spirit of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Looking for answers in a world marked by enormous volatility, pressure and political and economic corruption, Muslim youth are an easy target for extremist movements. Shaykh Qaradawi traces the complex roots of these views, and examines in-depth the many uses of the path to intolerance, offering a variety of remedies and cures. Perhaps more relevant today, given our troubled climate, than at any time in the past, the work introduces readers to a subject of great significance and wide ramifications.



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