

STUDIES ON ISLAM

Volume I, No 2, July 2004



Department of Islamic Studies
JAMIA HAMDARD
(HAMDARD UNIVERSITY)
HAMDARD NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 062
INDIA

Editor

Ishtiyaque Danish

Editorial Board

Professor Anwar Moazzam
Professor Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui
Professor Akhtarul Wasey
Dr. M. Manazir Ahsan

Published by

Department of Islamic Studies
Hamdard University
New Delhi

Editorial correspondence:

Editor, SOI
Department of Islamic Studies
Jamia Hamdard
New Delhi-110062

Circulation:

Incharge SOI
Publication Unit
Jamia Hamdard
New Delhi-110062

Editorial

We feel pleasure in presenting the second issue of *Studies on Islam*. The response, both from the scholars and laymen, to the first issue has really been encouraging, even inspiring. The scholarly appreciation that the journal has received from various quarters and the way many intellectuals/writers have come forward with their highly academic contribution as also their valuable comments for further improvement are a matter of satisfaction for us. But it also puts a great responsibility on our shoulders and demands even greater efforts on our part to fulfill the aspirations of our well-wishers. The efforts to improve the quality of the journal will continue unhindered, we assure our esteemed readers

The issue in hand has some very good articles. Prof. Nejatullah Siddiqi, a renowned Islamic scholar, has discussed in detail the position of violence in Islam. Perhaps many people would not agree with some of his ideas which is but natural. The good thing about Prof. Siddiqi is that he presents his views fearlessly and receives comments and criticism with an open mind. As our journal is committed to dialogue between scholars, it would gladly welcome contributions representing an altogether different viewpoint.

Dr. Yoginder Sikand and Dr. Mohd. Arshad have touched on some delicate issues which are being raised in the ongoing debate on *Madrasa* education in India. In the recent time the subject: education through *Madaris* (plural of *Madrasa*), has caught the imagination of a good number of scholars. The need for reform in the administration of *Madaris* and curriculum revision are two important points that figure prominently in all the debates on religious seminaries which are scattered all across India. Dr. Sikand has discussed in detail the views of the scholars who advocate reform in the *Madaris*. Dr. Mohd. Arshad, on the other hand, has tried to review the entire tradition of religious education as imparted by *Madaris* in India. He has rightly concluded that the curriculum revision has been a continuous tradition in the long history of *Madaris*. Both Dr. Sikand and Dr. Arshad argue that only through the introduction of necessary reform and curriculum revision, the *Madaris* of today can prove their relevance and utility in the fast changing world.

Prof. Peter, in his valuable contribution, has discussed the delicate issue of "clash of civilizations" which is being hotly debated all over the world. He rightly argues that a dialogue for mutual cooperation, rather

than a civilizational clash, is the need of the hour. Joseph Alagha, on the other hand, has touched on one of the many contentious issues or crises that afflict the Middle East. And Shahjahan Madampat has critically examined the biased portrayal of Muslims in Malayalam fiction. These and such other subjects concern a lot of people today. Therefore, we would like to appeal to all the right-thinking scholars to make use of the pages of our journal and try to create a peaceful and prosperous world through their academic contributions.

We feel that our book-review section needs further improvement. To do the needful, we need the cooperation of scholars, authors and intellectuals on the one hand and that of the publishers on the other. The publishers can make good use of the space our journal has reserved for book-reviews. The books we receive are handed over to responsible and competent writers, and they review them in a balanced manner. We hope both the writers as well as the publishers will capitalize on the opportunity we are offering to them

Ishtiyaque Danish

than a civilizational clash, is the need of the hour. Joseph Alagha, on the other hand, has touched on one of the many contentious issues or crises that afflict the Middle East. And Shahjahan Madampat has critically examined the biased portrayal of Muslims in Malayalam fiction. These and such other subjects concern a lot of people today. Therefore, we would like to appeal to all the right-thinking scholars to make use of the pages of our journal and try to create a peaceful and prosperous world through their academic contributions.

We feel that our book-review section needs further improvement. To do the needful, we need the cooperation of scholars, authors and intellectuals on the one hand and that of the publishers on the other. The publishers can make good use of the space our journal has reserved for book-reviews. The books we receive are handed over to responsible and competent writers, and they review them in a balanced manner. We hope both the writers as well as the publishers will capitalize on the opportunity we are offering to them

Ishtiyaque Danish

Contents

Editorial

Articles

- Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqi 1
Violence and Muslims

- Yoginder Sikand 21
Voices for Reform in the Indian Madaris

- Mohd. Arshad 53
Tradition of Madrasa Education

- Peter van der veer 67
Political religion in the 21st Century

- Joseph Alagha 85
*Hizbullah and Shi'ba farms contestations:
Kidnapping and Military Operations*

- Shajahan Madampat 97
*Representing the Muslim in Malayalam Literature:
Cultural Faultlines*

Review Article

- Empowering Muslims in India 113
Ishtiyaque Danish

Book Reviews

- Kashmir and Sindh—Nation-Building,
Ethnicity and Regional Politics 121
Yoginder Sikand

- Interpreting Islam for Modern Times 123
Ram Puniyani

- Influence of Islam on Hindi Literature 127
Reeta Baghchi

Contents

Editorial

Articles

- Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqi 1
Violence and Muslims

- Yoginder Sikand 21
Voices for Reform in the Indian Madaris

- Mohd. Arshad 53
Tradition of Madrasa Education

- Peter van der veer 67
Political religion in the 21st Century

- Joseph Alagha 85
*Hizbullah and Shi'ba farms contestations:
Kidnapping and Military Operations*

- Shajahan Madampat 97
*Representing the Muslim in Malayalam Literature:
Cultural Faultlines*

Review Article

- Empowering Muslims in India 113
Ishtiyaque Danish

Book Reviews

- Kashmir and Sindh—Nation-Building,
Ethnicity and Regional Politics 121
Yoginder Sikand

- Interpreting Islam for Modern Times 123
Ram Puniyani

- Influence of Islam on Hindi Literature 127
Reeta Baghchi