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# Intellectuality and Spirituality

Some of the Scholars



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## **Publisher's Forward**

To begin and execute a research is like walking in the path of development and evolvement. When the seeds of the “questions” are planted, in the soil of the mind of the researcher, this phase initiates, and its end is culminated when the result and the outcome of knowledge and wisdom is gained.

Evidently, this end is a new chapter in itself, for growth, and announces beforehand this good news to humans. For the result of all those mental efforts will not only bring the blooming and flowering of talent and all kinds of Blessings to humans, but it also makes the mind of the researcher to ponder and shape new, more questions.

This will produce a great collection of growing plants and flowers for the seeking mind... Those “questions” are in fact, the seeds, which according to the necessities of Time and the strength of the researchers will grow and bloom by themselves. They will make Culture and Civilization to move forward.

In like manner, the increasing rate of transferring oneself from one place to another place and the decrease of the distances will make those seeds travel miles and miles, to faraway places, in order to install them inside the curious mind of other seekers. This will bring an amazing diversity and a novelty for another civilization...

It is true then, that the presence of knowledge and a good, capable management will help this project to develop itself and one has to admit indeed, that it has always played an important role...

## **6 Intellectuality and Spirituality**

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center, because of its global mission, and its special position among the Religious Schools and the colorful human diversity that it has developed inside itself, sees it as a moral duty to procure all the appropriate conditions for any research works, and takes its role in this matter, most seriously. To procure all kinds of necessary grounds, with an excellent management of all the existing possibilities and talents, and to care and protect all its researchers in religious fields; these are the most crucial responsibilities of the Department of Research in this International center.

We dearly hope that by being attentive to all these autonomous scientific movements, and by fortifying all the existing motives, we shall be able to witness the blooming of the Religious Culture in every part of this wide world!

**Al-Mustafa International  
Publication and Translation Center**

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## Preface

The first Short-term Research Program (STRP) of Al-Mustafa International University-Tehran Branch was held in Tehran, Iran from December 16, 2011 to January 11, 2012. Fourteen scholars and doctoral students from Indonesia, Pakistan, Japan, Russia, France, UK, and USA attended the program.

The Short-Term Research Project was designed to be research oriented program and the participants were expected to conduct original research on some aspect of the general topic. There was a taught element to the Program that was conducted in a seminar fashion. Nine scholars and specialists in the field from Kenya, Canada, Germany, and Iran gave a series of lectures which were followed by an interactive dialogue with the participants. The general subject of inquiry for this first STRP was “Intellectuality and Spirituality”. The lectures were recorded and later transcribed and edited. What follows are the proceedings of the Program.

The dates of the seminars and an overview of the topics covered by the lecturers is as follows:

1. Dr Roland Pietsch (Germany)

A) December 17, 18, and 19.

i-The Epistemological Roots of Modernity

a) The concept of modernity and its many facets

b) Descartes and his epistemological foundation of

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- modern subjective philosophy and its consequences
- c) Franz von Baader's criticism of Descartes, Spinoza and Kant
- 2. HI Hamid Parsania (Iran)
  - A) December 20 and 21
    - i-From the Sacred Intellect to Instrumental Reason
      - a) The different meanings, dimensions, limits and levels that have been ascribed to rationality and the rational faculty in man, such as: Instrumental Reason, Metaphysical Reason, Speculative Reason, Practical Reason, Conceptual Reason, Intuitive Intellect, Sacred Intellect, Common Sense, Universal Intellect, Individual Intellect, and Empirical Reason.
      - b) Modernity and the reduction of sacred intellectuality to instrumental reason.
- 3. Dr Muḥammad Mutahhari (Iran)
  - A) December 22 and 23
    - i-Believers and the Modern Study of Religion
      - a) Nature of Statements in the Modern Study of Religion
      - b) The Modern Study of Religion-Points of Entry and Departure
      - c) The Modern Study of Religion's Capacity to Make Statements about "Religion"
      - d) Why the Outcomes of this Modern Enterprise cannot be Trusted by Believers
- 4. HI Muḥammad Khalfan (Kenya)
  - A) December 24 and 25
    - i-Avicenna & His Exposition of Practical Mysticism
      - a) Introductory Discussions: (The Definition of 'Irfān (Linguistic & Terminological), A Classification of Islamic Mysticism (Theoretical & Practical), The Fundamental Role of Practical Mysticism, Works on Practical Mysticism & Their Credibility, The Unique Nature of Avicenna's Exposition of Practical Mysticism)
      - b) Fundamental Stations of Practical Mysticism (1):

- (Deciphering a True ‘arif, Sincerity in the Culture of Mystics, the Beginnings 1 (A Word on Resolution, Its Causes & Effects), The Beginnings 2 (A Word on Self-Discipline & Its Source))
- c) Fundamental Stations of Practical Mysticism (2): (The Different Effects of Self-Discipline & the States of the Mystics (the Different Spiritual States as Expounded by Avicenna))
  - d) Distinct Characteristics of a Mystic According to Avicenna
5. Dr Ahmad Jalali (Iran)
- A) December 28, 29, and 31
    - i-The Mysticism of Khorasan
      - a) Mawlana Rūmī
      - b) Abu Yazīd al-Baṣṭāmī
      - c) Abu al-Ḥasan Khurqani
      - d) ‘Ayn al-Qudat
6. Dr Mohammad Fanaei Eshkevari (Iran)
- A) December 30
    - i-Features of Islamic Mysticism (*‘irfān*)
      - a) The nature of *‘irfān*
      - b) *‘Irfān* and Islam
      - c) Essential elements of *‘irfān*
      - d) Features of *‘irfān* in the School of the Ahl al-Bayt
7. Dr Muzaffar Iqbal (Canada)
- A) January 2, 3, and 4
    - i-The Spiritual Crisis of the Modern Man
      - a) Spiritual Crisis Defined/Explained (Aspects of Spirit/Spirituality, Relationship between Spirit and the Higher Realms, Spirit/Body Duality, What is meant by the “spiritual crisis” in real terms)
      - b) The Emergence of the Present Spiritual Crisis (Ages/Times of Man, Dimensions of the spiritual life, Sources of spiritual sustenance)
      - c) Historical Roots of the Crisis (Pre- and post-Renaissance Worlds, The Nineteenth century

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- watershed, The Deepening of the Crisis: The Twentieth century, Global aspects of the crisis in the Twenty-First Century)
- d) Major Facets of the Contemporary Spiritual Crisis
    - 1. The global nature of the crisis and its consequences
    - 2. Major aberrations of modernity
  - e) Urban jungle: loss of horizon, Reflections on Remedies
    - 1. Solutions offered by the Islamic spiritual tradition
    - 2. Chains of History and Geography and the Paths available to Man in the East and the West
    - 3. Spiritual Awakening
    - 4. Spiritual Practice
8. Dr Muḥammad ‘Ali Shomali (Iran)
- A) January 5 and 6.
    - i-The Social Aspects of Islamic Spirituality
      - a) Significance of Spirituality in Islam
      - b) Major Characteristics of Islamic Spirituality
      - c) Balance between Social and personal aspects of Human Life
      - d) Social Values and Ideals in Islamic Spirituality
      - e) Collective Nature of Wilāyah
9. Dr Muḥammad Legenhausen (USA)
- A) January 8, and 9.
    - i-Philosophy of Religion
      - a) Philosophy of Religion in Iran: overview
      - b) Concepts of God: tawhid, trinity, pantheism, panentheism, etc.
      - c) Islam and Religious Pluralism