

ذات الیومی کے اعزازی ڈائریکٹر ابصار احمد، کا تحریر کردہ جواب
جو پاکستان ٹائمز کی ۱۸ ستمبر ۱۹۸۸ء کی اشاعت میں شائع ہوا

Dr. Israr's new course

Answering your correspondent's letter captioned 'Dr. Israr's new course' (P.T. Sept. 21) I like to submit that it very clearly and convincingly brings out the fallacious thinking entertained even by the educated elite of the country regarding the separation of the sciences and scientific disciplines from religion. The respectable correspondent advises that education in religious matters should be imparted only to arts graduates at the Quran Academy and candidates with science and professional degrees should be discouraged from taking such courses on full time regular basis. My considered opinion, on the other hand, is that greatest need for the true Islamisation of Society is that of integrating science and technology with religion. There can be no doubt that Islam is relevant to all aspects of thinking of living, of being. This relevance must be articulated intelligently, intelligently and at the scholarly level. There is no denying the fact that the chief disseminating the alien and colonial view (represented so very convincingly by the learned correspondent) has been the educational system, bifurcated as it is not two sub-system, one, 'modern university type' and the other 'Islamic Madrasan type'. This bifurcation and chasm is the epitome of Muslim decline. And happily Dr. Israr Ahmad proposes just to bridge this gap and integrate the 'secular' and the 'religious'.

Indeed, by taking up this much needed educational venture, Dr. Israr Ahmad is following the path, suggested by the poet-philosopher of the East - Allama Mohammad Iqbal - in his famous Lectures, titled 'Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam'. Who can deny that Iqbal was the greatest Muslim Luminary who emphasised the integration of science with the fundamental verities of Islam. And for achieving or at least moving towards that envisaged goal he established the modest Darul Islam Institute at Pathankot. Moreover, the learned correspondent should know that the thinking on which the courses of the Quran Academy are based are not new even in the west. I have come to know from reliable sources that in Utah (USA), Mormons, the majority population of that state, have since long passed a legal provision according to which all girls and boys have to spend two years for acquiring religious training after completing their high school level.

Islam wants all its adherents to be its preachers and propagators. It does not at all favour the creation of a special class of clergy. Of course, the ultimate aim of Dr. Israr Ahmad's course is to produce such scholars who present Islam to the world at the highest intellectual level. But short of that, we surely need enlightened and educated Khatibs and Ordinary preachers. Again, professional with a considerable amount of religious knowledge are expected to do better in their respective fields and at the same time project Islamic values in a convincing manner.

I beg the learned correspondent to kindly think from the point of view of a true and committed Muslim. It is high time that we realise that Muslim Ummah is suffering from a threateningly dangerous malaise and the said course attempt to apply a cure - certain to restore to the Ummah its health and Islamic identity, as well as to nudge it forward on its predestined role of responsible world leadership.