

Maulana Hameeduddin Farahi- life and works

Maulana Abul Lais Islahi Nadvi

Trans. Mr. Muhammad Rashid Islahi

This article was published in "al-Zia" the erstwhile monthly organ of Nadwatul Ulama. In this article, Maulana Abul Lais Islahi has very briefly introduced main stages of Farahi's life and his academic and intellectual activities with special reference to his revolutionary researches in the field of Quranics. The main interest of this article, however, lies in the fact that it contains the observations of well-known Tunisian scholar, Shaikh Taqiuddin Hilali about the life and contributions of Maulana Farahi. These observations were reproduced from his personal diary. From the same diary is also reproduced a brief statement of Maulana Farahi about his life story in his own hand.

Islahi's book "Falsafah Ke Bunyadi Masail Quran-i Hakim ki Roshani men"

Dr Abu Sufyan Islahi

This book is a collection of lectures delivered by Maulana Amin Ahsan Islahi on some basic problems relating to philosophy, compiled by Mr Khalid Masud and Mr Mahboob Subhani. It deals with the following six important issues: Essence and attributes of Allah, man's position in the universe, good and bad, pre-destination and free will, reward and punishment and the Prophetic chronological order which is followed by a critique highlighting the weakness inherent in these opinions. At the end of each discussion, the Quranic point of view is discussed making it crystal clear that only Qur'an offers viable solution of these problems, which is also in complete harmony with the human nature.

Portrait of Mumin as depicted in the Quran

Maulana Daud Akbar Islahi

The holy Quran provides complete and detailed guidelines to regulate the lives of the faithful in every possible eventuality. It is therefore, incumbent on all those who claim to be Muslims to mould their individual lives as well as the society according to these guidelines. This paper brings out the attributes the Quran wants us to possess and the kind of personality it wants us to build. These qualities have been described at length at various places in the Quran and this paper has brought them out in a forceful manner.

ings of the Quran as well as the main features of his own translation. The article offers a detailed analysis of the Introduction. It is followed by a brief discussion on his well-known book on Quranic Sciences '*al-Fauz al-Kabir*'. At the end, the epilogue (*Khatimah*) of the translation is also noticed.

Critical Study of *Bahr-i Mawwaj*-an important Persian *tafsir* of Medieval India

Dr Saud Alam Qasimi

Qazi Shahabuddin Daulatabadi was a renowned scholar. He was born in Daulatabad towards the end of 14th century AD and studied at the feet of the most celebrated scholars of the age. Later on, he was appointed *Qazi al-Qazat* of Jaunpur under Sultan Ibrahim Sharqi and lies buried there. He has left behind a number of books on different themes. But his most celebrated work is "*Bahr-i Mawwaj*", a Persian *tafsir* of the Holy Book. It has been held in high esteem by scholars through the centuries for the depth of his understanding and keen insight. It was published by Nawal Kishore in 1297 AH. in three volumes but now it is extremely rare. This *tafsir* is considered very brilliant from grammatical point of view and it has been compared with *Kashshaf* in this particular respect. He has also sought to discover coherence (*nazm*) among the *ayat* as also between the '*surahs*' though he does not seem to have succeeded in this endeavour. Its value is greatly enhanced if it is remembered that it is the first Persian *tafsir* compiled in India.

Imam Wahidi and his contribution to the science of *tafsir*

Mr Safdar Sultan Islahi

Abul Hasan Ali bin Ahmad popularly known as Imam Wahidi is a *mufasssir* of great repute. He belongs to 5th century of Hijra and hailed from the city of Sawa in Khorasan but later on the family moved to Nishapur. His contribution to the science of *tafsir* is considered very significant and represent a fine combination of reason and tradition. As a result, his researches were held in great esteem during his own time and continued to have deep impact on the exegetes of coming generations. Unfortunately, there is not much awareness about the nature and value of his works. Dr Jodeh Muhammad Abu Yazid has filled this lacuna with his authoritative work on the life and contribution of Imam Wahidi. Present article is based on this book.

ABSTRACT

Defining Concept and Scope of *Fi Sabil Allah*

Dr Abdul Azim Islahi

Much difference of opinion exists among *ulama* regarding the definition of the term *fi sabil Allah*, one of the heads of *zakah* expenditure. An analysis of the verses containing the term would seem to suggest that used with *qatl*, *qital*, *hijrah* and *jihad* it means fighting, migration or struggle with a view to exalt the word of Allah (*I'la-e Kalimat Allah*), call towards him (*Dawah ila Allah*) and support and protection of His religion (*Himayat Din Allah*). However, in the few verses where it is used along with *infaq* (spending in the way of Allah) it has wider meaning and covers all deeds of piety and goodness. In view of the fact that the term has been mentioned as a separate head of expenditure of *Zakah* in the verse wherein these heads are specified, it is clear that here *fi sabil Allah* does not denote an act of common piety; it is more than that, something extra ordinary. That extraordinary act appears to be the struggle for the establishment of the religion of Allah through all possible means such as educational, scientific, economic, military etc. The *Hajj* will not be covered under this head as it is obligatory only when a person has sufficient means to bear the expenses. Similarly, *Zakah* cannot be spent on public utilities and social goods as their beneficiaries include both rich and poor, except when it is necessary for *jihad* purposes. Declaration of *jihad*, and determination of its requirements, should not be left to the individuals. This authority solely rests with the Islamic state and in its absence a representative committee of *ulama* or *uli'l Amr* should assume this responsibility.

A Critical Study of Shah Waliullah's Introduction to his Persian Translation of the Holy Quran

Maulana Ziauddin Islahi

Shah Waliullah is one of the greatest Muslim thinkers and reformers. Among his outstanding contributions may be included his efforts to disseminate and popularise learning of the Qur'an and create an awareness among the people regarding the imperative necessity of understanding the Holy Book. To achieve this objective, among other things, he translated the Holy Quran into the Persian language to make it accessible to the common masses. He has also written an Introduction to his translation in which he has discussed the issues involved in the translation of the mean-