

efforts of scholars like Sizgin, only a fraction of the total Muslim contribution could be unearthed so far and much work remains to be done in this field.

But even such efforts are bound to suffer from many infirmities. Hikmat Yasin Bashir has sought to critically evaluate the chapter on *Tafsir* and he finds too many holes in it both regarding plan and execution. For example, among the Companions of the Prophet, he had noticed only Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas though it is well-known that there were numerous *mufasssirs* among the *Sahabah* (R.A.), such as the *Khulafa-i-Rashideen*, Ibn-i-Masud, Ubayy-i-Kaab, Abu Musa Ashaari etc. Exegetic traditions of a number of companions have been collected, compiled and published.

Moreover, Sizgin has subjected the tafsir of Ibn Abbas to a harsh and entirely unjustified criticism. If his opinions on the subject were followed closely, it would emerge that it is nothing more than a rehash of Goldziher's ideas. The author has then gone into a detailed discussion taking note of numerous objections and criticisms of Sizgin demolishing them with an array of cogent arguments and well-reasoned evidence.

### **Jamiah Islamiah Madinah Munawwarah and Research in the field of Quranic Studies**

**Muhammad Ajmal Islahi**

Jamiah Islamiah was established in 1381 A.H. / 1961 A.D. From the very beginning it aimed at acquainting the students of the Muslim world with the Arabic language and religious sciences. It was due to this fact that from its very inception, the proportion of non-Saudi students at the Jamiah has been very high.

Sometime back the university published a comprehensive catalogue of the research dissertations submitted at various levels from 1970-1999. As a matter of fact the Faculty of Quran consists of two sections – *Tafsir* and *Qira'at*. The dissertations submitted in the section of *Tafsir* number 130 and those in the section of *Qira'at* are 25. In this way a total of 155 doctoral theses and dissertations have been submitted. Moreover some of the dissertations submitted in other faculties having some relationship with some aspect of the Quranic studies have also been included in this list. Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Islahi has compiled this useful information in a systematic way dividing the list under five different sections:

- a) Citations of unpublished book on *tafsir* and other Quranic sciences.
- b) Compilation of exegetical traditions of *Tabi'in*, *taba tabi'in* or some other earlier *mufasssirs* from the books of *tafsir* etc.
- c) Those dissertations which deal with the method of *tafsir* of a particular *mufasssir*.
- d) Dissertations relating to the basic principles of the Quran.
- e) The dissertations relating to *dawah*, theoretical aspects, history and society etc.