

Ismā'il Rājī al Fārūqī

The late Dr. Ismā'il al Fārūqī (1339-1406 / 1921-1986) is widely recognized as an authority on Islam and comparative religion. After attending college in his native Palestine, he continued his education at the American University in Beirut (B.A. in philosophy), Indiana University (M.A. in philosophy), Harvard University (M.A. in philosophy), Indiana University (Ph.D. in philosophy), and engaged in post-graduate study at al Azhar University (Islam) and McGill University (Christianity and Judaism). He is therefore one of the few contemporary Muslim scholars qualified to deal with Islam, Christianity, and Judaism on their own terms.

Dr. al Fārūqī was an extremely active academician. During his years as a visiting professor of Islamic studies and scholar-in-residence at McGill University (1378-1381 / 1958-1961), a professor of Islamic studies at Karachi's Central Institute of Islamic Research (1381-1383 / 1961-1963), a visiting professor of the history of religions at the University of Chicago (1383-1384 / 1963-1964), an associate professor of religion at Syracuse University (1384-1388 / 1964-1968), and a professor of religion at Temple University (1388-1406 / 1968-1986), he found time to write over 100 articles for various scholarly journals and magazines in addition to twenty-five books, such as the *Historical Atlas of the Religions of the World: Trialogue of the Abrahamic Faiths*, *Christian Ethics: A Historical and Systematic Analysis of Its Dominant Ideas*, and a monumental work entitled *The Cultural Atlas of Islam*, a collaborative effort with his wife Dr. Lois Lamyā al Fārūqī.

Despite all of this academic activity, however, he did not live in an ivory tower. He founded the Islamic Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion and chaired it for ten years. He served as the vice-president of the Inter-Religious Peace Colloquium, The Muslim-Jewish-Christian Conference, and as the president of the American Islamic College in Chicago. In addition, he was an active member in several academic organizations and societies, served on the editorial boards of a number of journals, was the recipient of numerous scholarships and grants, and served as a visiting professor and advisor to universities throughout the Islamic world.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيَّاتِ وَرُسُلِهِ

*In the Name of Allah,
the Compassionate, the Merciful,
Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe,
and Peace and Prayers be upon
His Final Prophet and Messenger.*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾
 أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ
 مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾

العلق ١ - ٥

Read in the name of your Sustainer, Who has Created man out of a germ cell. Read—for your Sustainer is the Most bountiful One. Who has taught (man) the use of the pen. Taught Man what he did not know.
(Qur'an 96:1-5)

وَاللَّهُ أَخْرَجَكُمْ مِنْ بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ شَيْئًا
 وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ
 لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٧٨﴾

النحل ٧٨

And Allah has brought you forth from your mother's womb knowing nothing—but He has endowed you with hearing, and sight, and minds, so that you might have cause to be grateful.
(Qur'an 16:78)

AL TAWHĪD:
Its Implications for
Thought and Life

First Edition (1402/1982)
Second Edition (1412/1992)
Third Printing (1416/1996)
Fourth Printing (1418/1998)
Fifth Printing (1420/2000)

The views and opinions expressed in this work
are not necessarily those of the Institute.

The International Institute of Islamic Thought
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Issues in Islamic Thought (4)

©1420/2000

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Website: www.iiit.org

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Al Faruqī, Ismail R. (1339-1406 / 1921-1986)

Al Tawhīd: Its Implications for Thought and Life/

Ismā'īl Rāḥī al Fārūqī

p. 256 cm. 23 (Issues in Islamic Thought: 4)

Includes bibliographical references and indexes (217-237)

Originally published in 1982.

ISBN 0-912463-79-1 – ISBN 0-912463-80-5 (pbk.)

I. Islam. I. International Institute of Islamic Thought

II. Title. III. Series

91-47175

CIP

BP161.2.A477 1992

297' 211-dc20

Printed in the United States of America by

International Graphics

10710 Tucker Street, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2223 USA

Tel: (301) 595-5999 Fax: (301) 595-5888

E-mail: ig@igprinting.com