

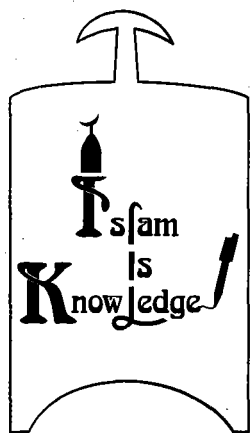
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT,
NIGERIA OFFICE

ISLAMIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE SERIES

1

Islamization of Knowledge

Conceptual Background, Vision and Tasks



Salisu Shehu

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Salisu Shehu was born in Tafawa Balewa town of Bauchi State, Nigeria in 1965. His early education started with the traditional Qur'anic school obtainable all over Northern Nigeria. He later got enrolled into the conventional primary school in 1972. He had his post-primary education at the Government Arabic Teachers' College, Gombe from 1978 to 1983. He obtained both his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Bayero University, Kano in 1988 and 1995 respectively. He was a lecturer in Educational Psychology in the Federal College of Education (Technical), Gombe before joining the Department of Education, Bayero University, Kano where he currently teaches the same course among several others. He is the Director, Research and Publication, I.I.I.T.(Nigeria Office)

Shehu has written a number of papers and articles some of which include: "Qur'an and World Peace; Islamic Conception of Social Justice and Equity: Its Relevance and Efficacy to the Problem of Inequality in Nigeria"; and "Planning, Strategy and Conduct of War in Islam: Reflections on the Political and Military Biography of Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w)" which will soon be published in sha Allah.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ① خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ②
 اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ③ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ④ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ
 مَا لَمْ يَكُنْ لَمْ يَلْمِ ⑤

(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)

وَأَمَّا الْأَعْصَالُ بِالْبَيَاتِ ، وَأَمَّا لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا تَوَى فَمَنْ كَانَتْ هِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى
 اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ فَهِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ، وَمَنْ كَانَتْ هِجْرَتُهُ لِذَاتِ بَعْضِهَا ،
 أَوْ امْرَأَةٍ يَنْكِحُهَا فَهِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى مَا هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِ ، مَقْفُوعٌ عَلَى صَحِيحٍ . رَوَاهُ إِمامُ
 الْمُحَدِّثِينَ : أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ بْنُ إِبرَاهِيمَ بْنِ الشَّيْخِ أَبُو بَرْزَنْةَ
 الْجَمْفِيُّ الْبَحْرِيُّ ، وَأَبُو الْحَسَنِ مُسْلِمُ بْنُ الْحَجَّاجِ بْنِ مُسْلِمِ الْقَشِيرِيُّ
 الْبَسْمِطِيُّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا فِي صَحِيحَيْهِمَا اللَّيْثِيُّ هَذَا مَوْجُودٌ فِي كِتَابِ الْمُصَنَّفِ .

Umar ibn Khattab has related that he heard the Holy Prophet say:
 Motive determines the value of all conduct, and a person attains that which
 he desires. If the motive of one who emigrates is to attain to Allah and His
 Messenger, then that is the purpose of his migration; and he who migrates
 seeking the world attains to it, and he who migrates for the sake of a woman,
 marries her and thus his migration is for the purpose he has in mind (Bokhari
 and Muslim).

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**ISLAMIZATION OF KNOWLEDGE:
CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND,
VISION AND TASKS**

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FOREWARD

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon His Messenger Muhammad. Wassalamu Alaykun Rahmatullah.

The IIIT (International Institute of Islamic Thought) in Nigeria, in conjunction with the Muslim Forum of Bayero University, Kano, jointly organized and conducted a one day seminar on the Islamization of Knowledge. The seminar took place on 5 Rabi' al - Awwal, 1417 (20 July 1996). It was one of a series of programme designed for faculty outreach. Therefore, academic staff in the various faculties of the University were invited and constituted the primary audience.

The primary aim of the seminar was to educate and mobilize Muslim academicians in the University towards the Islamization of knowledge programme. It has been observed that, although a number of departments in the University offer Islamically oriented courses and several papers had been presented in some departments and even some international seminars, many academic staff still do not have a proper understanding of the idea behind the Islamization of knowledge. For this reason, all the papers presented focused on the concept of Islamization of Knowledge itself.

One of the papers presented is Salisu Shehu's entitled, "Islamic Vision of Knowledge: Its implications and Significance to the Islamization of Knowledge Programme". This paper elucidated the conceptual basis of the Islamization of

knowledge which centres on the Islamic vision of knowledge. The paper clearly analyzed the position and importance of knowledge in Islam, the aim of acquiring knowledge in Islam, Islamic source of knowledge, classification of knowledge in Islam, Islamic view about the Universality of Knowledge and the characteristics of knowledge in Islam. It then discussed the significance and implications of the Islamic vision of knowledge to the Islamization of knowledge programme.

The thoroughness, brilliance and excellence of the paper motivated the IIT (Nigeria) Office to request Bro. Salisu Shehu to expand some of the sub-themes, especially on the tasks ahead for the Islamization of knowledge programme, with a view to publishing it. This booklet is the outcome of Bro. Salisu Shehu's vision which has been edited. This is then the pioneering book on Islamization of knowledge to be published by IIT (Nigeria) office. In sha Allah another paper will be published in the same way.

I pray to Allah Subhanahu waTa'ala to open the hearts and minds of all Muslims who come across this publication in order for them to assimilate its content and live their lives in accordance with the teachings it contains. May the Almighty reward the author abundantly. Ameen.

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23rd March, 1998.