

BASMALAH

SOME EXEGETICAL INSIGHTS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

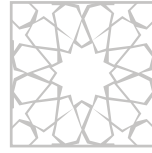
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A B S T R A C T

Contrary to the materialistic view about Man being an evolved animal or a rational animal (*ḥayawān nāṭiq*) and the religious view seeing Man's existence on earth due to "fall of Man" as a consequence of an "Original Sin," Islamic Teachings inform that Man in fact has a very noble origin and a unique status of being Allah's Caliph on earth. His lofty assignment is to manage the human as well as all other resources and affairs of the earth and the universe on command of the Creator. This assignment can be rightfully performed only if it is performed in accordance with the instructions of the Creator and the sovereign Allah, which is possible only if His Majesty and Favours always remain fresh and live in the human mind. It becomes all the more inevitable, in the wake of the challenge posed by the declared enmity and all out perpetual deceptive war, till the last day, by Satan who aspired that the position of Allah's Caliph be given to him instead of Man. Therefore, always keeping Allah's Majesty and Favours alive in human mind and seeking His Protection is inevitable for Man to perform his assignment rightfully. To achieve this objective *Basmalah* plays a crucial role in Islamic way of life. This paper, in this backdrop, first presents some exegetical insights regarding contents, signification and status of *Basmalah* in the Qur'ān and then delves in its practical applications in the Islamic way of life.

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TOWARDS A CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC HOUSING

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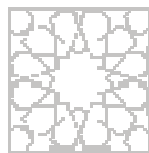
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A B S T R A C T

Central to the standards by which a house may be categorised as “Islamic” are the holiness and purity of its philosophy, vision, function and utility, accompanied by convenience, efficiency, safety, awareness of the physical surroundings, and anything else that Islam reckons as indispensable for living a decent and accountable family life. This paper discusses the subject of Islamic housing and some major requirements for its revival today. The following thrusts are the focus of the paper: 1) The meaning of Islamic housing; 2) Sound housing policies; 3) Avoiding major transgressions associated with housing; 4) Endless creativity and Islamic housing; 5) Some practical suggestions for designing Islamic houses.

The paper concludes that Islam, a comprehensive way of life, has provided ample guidance in the field of planning and designing houses as well. Islam laid a solid foundation, though in some instances in form of laws and principles, for creating what became known as the phenomenon of Islamic housing. In Islam, the house is an institution. It occupies an important position. It is a family development centre. It is a microcosm of Islamic culture and civilisation. The character of the paper is conceptual rather than empirical.

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Ideological Foundation of Pakistan

Annotated Presidential Address of Allama Muhammad Iqbal to the 25th Session of the All-India Muslim League*

Sir Muhammad Iqbal

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A B S T R A C T

Allama Muhammad Iqbal is the ideologue of Pakistan, who, first, presented the idea of division of India into two states, to solve the on-going communal problem of India, in his well-known 1930 *Khutbah Allahābād*.

This document, in full, is presented here with annotations to facilitate the reader to understand the religio-socio-political environment of 1930's India and the perspective and context of the Pakistan Movement.

Iqbal on the outset affirmed, “while assuming that the Muslims of India are determined to remain true to the spirit of Islam,” he would “propose basic policy principles based on the insight gained through his lifelong careful study of Islam, its law and polity, its culture, its history and its literature.”

Proposing the practical modality for solving the on-going Hindu Muslim communal problem, he stated: “I would like to see the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single state. Self-Government within the British Empire, or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated North-West Indian Muslim state appears to me to be the final destiny of the Muslims at least of the North-West India.”

Finally, he cautioned: “At critical moments in their history it is Islam that has saved Muslims and not *vice versa*. If today you focus your vision on Islam and seek inspiration from the ever-vitalising idea embodied in it, you will be only reassembling your scattered forces, regaining your lost integrity, and thereby saving yourself from total destruction.”

* Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1294–1357/1877–1938) started writing this Presidential Address in July



TESTIMONY
FROM STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENTATION
THE FUTURE OF THE US-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP¹

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 5, 2009

C. CHRISTINE FAIR²
The RAND Corporation, USA

A B S T R A C T

The Bill “Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009” or “Peace Act of 2009” H. R. 1886, was introduced in the 1st Session of 111th US Congress on April 2, 2009, by Mr Berman, Howard L. along with others. It was referred to several committees including the Committee of Foreign Affairs, before which Carol Christine Fair appeared for this Testimony on May 5, 2009. The House passed the amended bill on June 11, 2009. We are publishing this Testimony, with due appreciation and credit, to highlight the necessary consultative role of the academia in the American Law-making process though Fair herself has come under heavy criticism by worldwide academia for her controversial stances, like denying that drone attacks caused civilian deaths, which has been ranked as propaganda and simply false by other American political analysts. The divine command mandated the consultative process, in the contours of the Qur’ān and Prophetic *Sunnah*, as the basic pillar of all the collective matters whenever a matter involves two or more persons. Nascent Pakistani democracy can learn from this testimony as how to benefit from academia’s learned resource in the consultative process of law-making enshrined in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its Objectives Resolution.

1. This testimony is available for free download at: <<http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/CT330/>>.

2. The opinions and conclusions expressed in this testimony are the author’s alone and should not be...