

Series of Lectures

Sources, Methods and Principles of Sirah-Writings

Title of the Event: Series of Lectures on Sources, Methods and Principles of *Sirah*-Writings

The Speaker: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui (Director Shah Wali Allah Dehlavi Research Cell of the Institute of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, India, and Former Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, India)

When: March 25-29, 2013.

Inaugural session March 25, 2013 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Concluding session March 29, 2013 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Rest of Sessions: March 26-28, 2013 from 2:30 pm to 5: 00 pm.

Venue: Allamah Iqbal Auditorium, Old Campus, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Introduction: Muslims have been writing on the *Sirah* of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from the very early times. In the course of time, *Sirah*-Writing developed as one of the most prominent disciplines of Islamic Sciences and Muslim scholars produced very rich and profound literature in this field. However, when Orientalists started to target Islam and its Prophet (peace be on him), they prepared material which casted doubts about the authenticity of *Sirah*-Literature as a discipline on one hand, and criticized Islam and its Prophet on the basis of some unauthentic material crept into the *Sirah*-literature on the other hand. Therefore, a need was felt to revisit and refine the discipline to eliminate the factors which lead to cast doubts about the *Sirah*-Literature as a discipline. Consequently, a new *Sirah*-Literature emerged. Following and many other *Sirah*-books are representatives of this trend in *Sirah*-Writing, *Seerat al-Nabi*, by Shibli Nomani and Sulaiman Nadvi, *Asahh al-Siyar*, by ‘Abd al-Rauf Danapuri, *Al-Sirah al-Nabawiyyah*, by Akram Zia al-Umari, *Al-Sirah al-Nabawiyyah fi Zaw’ al-Masadir al-Asliyyah*, by Mahdi Rizq Allah and *Sahih al-Sirah al-Nabawiyyah*, by Ibraim al-‘Aliyy etc. Keeping all this in mind, the present series of lectures (*Khutubat-i Sirat*) will present a critical study of the principles and sources of *Sirah*-Writing.

Objectives: The main objective of the present series of lectures (*Khutubat-i Sirat*) is to present a textual analysis of the prominent sources of the *Sirah* along with a treatment of leanings and attitudes of their authors.

Main Themes: The guest scholar will deliver lectures mainly on the following themes:

- 1- A Critical Assessment of Ibn Ishaq and his *Sirah* Found in Various Recensions with Special Reference to Bakkai (contained in Ibn Hisham), Yunus b. Bukair and others
- 2- A Textual Survey; rather, Analysis of Waqidi and Ibn Sa'd
- 3- Some other Sources of the *Sirah* such as Baladhuri and Ibn Kathir, etc.
- 4- Methodology of *Sirah*-Writing Adopted by Leading Writers
- 5- Use of the *Sirah*-Material Contained in the Hadith, Ansab and local History Books, etc.
- 6- Biographical or Historical Treatment and Thematic Chapterization
- 7- Reconstruction of the *Sirah* in all its Dimensions and Aspects

Introduction of the Guest scholar: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui is a leading scholar on *Sirah* Studies. He authored more than 30 books and many research papers in Urdu, English and Arabic. Among his works, *Organization of Government under the Holy Prophet (SAW)* (1988), *The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): A Role Model for Muslim Minorities* (2006) and *Makki 'Ahd-i Nabawi Salla Allayhi wa'ala'alihi wasalam 'ala' main Islami Ahkam ka Irtiqā'* (2008) have won international repute. He holds doctorate in History (1975) from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India. He taught at AMU from 1970 to 2002 in the departments of History and Islamic Studies. He also held the Chair of Islamic Studies at the same University in 1997-1998 and 2000-2002. From 2002 to date, he is the director of Shah Wali Allah Dehlavi Research Cell of the Institute of Islamic Studies, AMU.

The Organizer: *Sirah* Unit of Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad

Contact:

Muhammad Islam

Incharge *Sirah* Unit,

Islamic Research Institute, IIU

P.O.Box 1035, Islamabad, Pakistan

Phone: +92-51-9262240

E-mail: seerahunit2013@hotmail.com