



The Institute of Ismaili Studies



One of many significant milestones: In 1975, Mawlana Hazar Imam met with Ismaili scholars and leaders of the Jamat where a decision was taken to establish an academic institution for Ismaili studies.

Message from the Director



Dear Donors and Friends of
The Institute of Ismaili Studies,

By a happy coincidence, our recent publications bring the total number of books published by the Institute to just over 50, in time for the commemoration of Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee. This half a century has proved transformational in the modern history of the Ismailis at many levels. The revival of Ismaili scholarship by the Institute is one such facet. Its roots in history go back over a thousand years to the Fatimids and perhaps further back to the rise of early Shi'i intellectual history, marking a long standing tradition of promoting knowledge and learning. Our publications attempt to encompass this rich heritage and to bring about a critical balance in the study of Muslim scholarship as a whole. The critical acclaim with which the IIS publications have been received and their increasing use particularly in academic institutions and

circles globally is already beginning to redress the balance.

Among our most ambitious undertakings during the Jubilee Year will be the Secondary Teacher Education Programme (STEP). The launch of this new course, in collaboration with the Institute of Education of the University of London, seeks to address the question, within the *Jamat* and elsewhere, of how to educate teachers about the richness and diversity of the Muslim world so as to educate children and youth about a cosmopolitan heritage that is also part of the history of the world.

All of these initiatives including the Institute's cumulative achievements, are an integral part of the many milestones that will be celebrated as part of the Golden Jubilee. They represent not only a foundation but a promise of the opportunities that lie ahead.

IIS UPDATE

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Department of Education

Launch of the Secondary Teacher Education Programme

December 2006 saw a flurry of activity surrounding the launch of the Secondary Teacher Education Programme (STEP) pilot, both in London and abroad. Collaborative presentations detailing programme specifics were given by IIS staff and national ITREB-STEP Teams in the five pilot regions: India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Canada and the USA. The response from the *Jamat*, institutional leadership and prospective candidates was very encouraging, with interest in the programme being solicited from across a wide spectrum of well-qualified candidates.

STEP is a pioneering educational collaboration between two well-respected, specialist institutions: the Institute of Education (IOE), University of London, and The Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS). Graduates will be awarded two master's degrees by the University of London: a Master of Teaching (MTeach) and a Master of Arts in Education (Muslim Societies and Civilisations). The IOE will ensure that appropriate and adequate standards of practices and regulations are followed at all times whilst the IIS will ensure that the programme content remains relevant to the *Jamat*. The collaboration involves an initial agreement stretching three years to service two cohorts of approximately forty participants each, drawn from the pilot regions.



A religious education classroom, India

“Within this long-standing tradition of promoting knowledge and learning,” says Professor Azim Nanji, the IIS’ Director, “the IIS looks forward with great anticipation to partnering with the University of London to develop teachers who are able to make the multifaceted and exciting Secondary Curriculum (developed by the IIS) accessible to young people globally. It represents a challenging opportunity for future teachers to develop professional teaching skills within a framework that links their heritage to the best tools and methods available in an academic environment of excellence.”

Professor Geoff Whitty, Director of the Institution of Education offers supporting sentiments: “Links between our Institutes can only go from strength to strength over the coming years. I am confident that the launch of this new course will lead to further discussions about how we can educate prospective teachers about the richness and diversity of the Muslim world, to educate children about heritages that are part of our world today.”

The London based phase of the programme extends over two academic years. Upon successful completion, graduates will take up posts as full-time, professional



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secondary teachers employed by their national ITREBs. The first cohort will commence studies in London in the autumn of 2007, graduate in the summer of 2009, and commence teaching in the autumn of 2009. The second cohort will begin studies in the autumn of 2008, graduate in the summer of 2010, and commence teaching in the autumn of 2010. Recruitment of the cohorts will be entirely merit based and will comply with the entry requirements of the IOE.

Initially, national ITREBs in the five pilot countries are expected to act as sponsoring institutions and will ensure, through a robust STEP marketing process, that a qualified pool of individuals are made available for recruitment from their regions. STEP graduates will be deployed in the following cities: Toronto and Vancouver (Canada), Houston (USA), Mumbai (India), Karachi (Pakistan), and Khorog (Tajikistan). Their professional entitlement will also include a well designed compensation package.

“Working with and alongside the grass-roots community and supporting institutions and leaders, and with dedicated ITREB-STEP country teams is crucial if we are to ensure a self-renewing programme that re-vitalises existing religious education systems,” says Dr Munir Vellani, the Project Director of STEP at the IIS. “Currently we have excellent country STEP teams of dedicated leaders working very hard to ensure that their respective

The IOE will ensure that appropriate and adequate standards of practices and regulations are followed at all times whilst the IIS will ensure that the programme content remains relevant to the Jamat.

pilot region will be set up with the right kinds of pastoral systems and religious education infrastructure.”

The two-year programme, based in London, is designed to help STEP participants gradually develop a knowledge base of professional teaching practices, modes of enquiry, core subject-matter, and the skills and attributes of reflective practitioners through guided in-field practicum experiences. At a time when the recruitment and retention of excellent teachers are key issues influencing young students’ access to religious education, the possibility of award-bearing professional learning is a real incentive for relevant community stakeholders within religious education settings to support the teachers practically and professionally.

Further details on this programme may be found on the IIS website (www.iis.ac.uk) under Graduate Studies.



Students in discussion in the IIS library

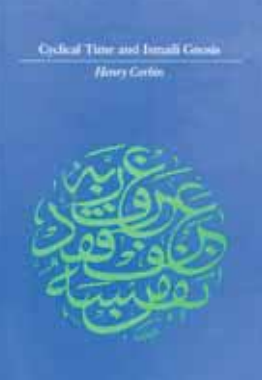


Leading education
and social research
Institute of Education
University of London

in collaboration with



The Institute of Ismaili Studies



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1984



1985

Department of Graduate Studies Talking to our Students

The Department of Graduate Studies (DGS) is currently preparing to receive a new cohort of students for the Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and

Humanities (2007-2008). The competitive scholarship for the Graduate Programme supports students through three years of post-graduate work, two of which

are based at the IIS. To best communicate the experience of the programme, the DGS interviewed several existing students about their experiences and aspirations:



Laila Kadiwal
Class of 2009

“It’s here I have learnt that most questions do not require an answer but deconstruction of the assumptions on which they stand. Here, reading is not merely an act of identifying letters and comprehending them, but an art of intellectually engaging with each single word that the author has chosen to carve on the page. The study of religion, history, art, culture and literature is helping me see things in a wider perspective and studying with the diverse group of Ismailis is fostering my ability to engage with diversity.

After the course, I would like to be what Mawlana Hazar Imam calls, an ‘agent of change’ by taking up, *Insha-Allah*, a position of leadership in the Aga Khan Academies. During my study at the Institute, and even after that through the continuing relationship with the Institute, I would like to ensure that I am well placed to contribute within the community and beyond. I am especially looking forward to contributing in some way to the upcoming Aga Khan Academy, in my home country, India.”

Laila is currently completing her first year of the programme at the IIS.



Palla Pallaev
Class of 2008

“Overtime, religion has begun to play an increasingly greater role in the lives of Muslims in post-Soviet republics. As a result of this, I have experienced a growing interest in the teaching and study of Islam within Central Asia. It is for this reason that I chose to study at the IIS where I have been able to study Islam from a range of perspectives. For me personally, the shift from a Soviet to a Western style education system was both challenging and exciting. As an Ismaili, it gives me a great sense of happiness to be able to systematically study the history and doctrines of my community. Having the opportunity to interact with my fellow classmates from different parts of the world has also proved tremendously useful. Of all the modules pertaining to Islamic Studies and Humanities, those that I have found most interesting have been the ones related to development and civil society. This has led me to the decision that I would like to undertake a Masters degree in Development and Modern Society, with special reference to Central Asia, during my final year of the programme.”

Palla is currently completing his second year of the programme at the IIS.

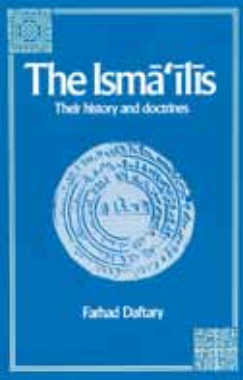


Farrukh Lalani
Class of 2007

“The past two years have been amongst the most challenging and memorable ones. At the IIS, I learnt not only from the professors and the text books but also from my fellow class mates who represented five countries and had as varied experiences as the countries they represented. Through them, I came to understand the lives of Muslims in post soviet societies, what it means to live in a post conflict society, what it means to live in Iran or grow up as a “child of the revolution”.

Whilst the programme’s interdisciplinary approach exposed me to different dimensions of learning about Islam – art, literature, history, philosophy – it simultaneously challenged my perceptions, my preconceived notions and my prejudices. These topics and issues which we discussed and raised in the classrooms of the IIS, today form the basis of my advanced education in Law and Diplomacy. For today as I sit in seminars discussing the issues of democracy, nation building, the rise of Islamist movements and terrorism, I realise that I can bring to these discussions a sense of understanding, of sensitivity and analysis that I would not have been able to provide two years ago.”

Farrukh is currently completing her third year of the programme at Fletcher School, Tufts University.



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Alumni Relations

The Alumni Internship Programme

In 2006, the IIS launched its Alumni Internship Programme, an entirely new initiative of the IIS. The objectives of the programme were to create attractive opportunities for IIS alumni that would assist them with their professional development and, where appropriate, facilitate their return and reintegration into their societies. The programme was open to all alumni who had graduated from one of the Institute's four human resource development programmes. In total, sixteen internship opportunities were established within twelve *Jamati* and *Imamat* Institutions in Canada, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the UK, ranging from two to twelve months in duration.

The internship opportunities created ranged from administrative and HR-related positions to roles in research and religious education. Agencies participating in the programme included the Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan Development Network (Tajikistan), Aga Khan Humanities Project for Central Asia, Department of *Jamati* Institutions (Tajikistan), FOCUS International Coordinating Committee, ITREB Tajikistan, ITREB UK and the IIS. In addition to these, opportunities were also identified amongst external agencies and institutions such as OXFAM.

The programme aims to give practical experience to our graduates in fields that are of interest and relevance to them.



IIS Alumnus Zafar Aligulov discussing his internship with Latofat Zahurova, AKDN Tajikistan.

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Participating agencies have also benefited from our graduates' academic backgrounds and their critical thinking abilities. A total of fifteen alumni participated in the internship programme in 2006. As part of the programme, all of them participated in a comprehensive evaluation strategy to ensure that the programme remains effective for all beneficiaries.

In her post-internship evaluation, one IIS alumna stated, "I was able to speak to several people involved in different parts of the AKDN as a

result of this internship, and that was very useful. Also, simply by virtue of being in Ottawa, I made contact with people in the government of Canada which led to me getting my current position with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade." One agency described their intern as "fantastic...performed admirably" and would be keen to have another IIS intern work with them in 2007.

The IIS hopes to offer more internship opportunities in 2007.



Department of Community Relations

A year in review

One of the foundational goals of the IIS has been to serve the global *Jamat* by developing academic and curricular materials for religious formation as well as nurturing and harnessing competent human resources for ITREBs and other *Jamati* institutions. The Department of Community Relations (DCR) contributes to the intellectual growth of the *Jamat* through a range of programmatic interventions, research initiatives as well as by developing and facilitating the dissemination of relevant reading materials to key *Jamati* constituencies. The programmatic initiatives of the Department include a range of global workshops aimed at leadership, educators and broader audiences within the *Jamat*. In addition to these workshops, the Institute endeavours to remain intellectually engaged with these groups through the distribution of a select range of IIS and other publications. A summary of the main programmatic initiatives in 2006 and their objectives are presented below.

Leadership

Through the Leadership Orientation Programmes (LOP), the Institute seeks to engage with the senior leadership of the *Jamat*, in order to foster anticipatory thinking around current and foreseeable issues and to share the intellectual perspectives and research outcomes of the IIS. Open



Participants, faculty and staff at the 2006 Leadership Orientation Programme for Asia in Mumbai, India.

dialogue with the senior leadership in each region also forms part of the programme and assists both parties in understanding the key issues and challenges that the leadership face, enabling them to develop appropriate frameworks, principles and discourse to respond to these issues. The IIS is committed to providing such programmes regionally, servicing the needs of senior *Jamati* leadership which include Ismaili National Councils, ITREBs, Central Institutions and the AKDN. During 2006, three such programmes were held in Asia, East Africa & Europe for leadership representing 12 *Jamats* around the world.

Educators

The IIS also seeks to foster the intellectual development of those individuals involved in the religious education and formation of the *Jamat*, through a range of

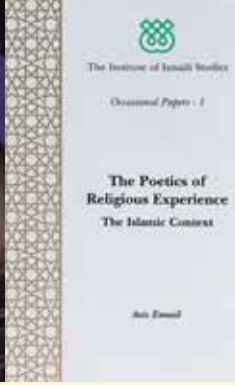
workshops aimed specifically at ITREB academic personnel, Core Curriculum writers and waezeen.

The ITREB Personnel Workshop encourages participants to review their thinking and broaden their approaches to dealing with issues impacting the *Jamat*. In turn, the workshop assists in the development of meaningful and purposive frameworks that can be used to address these issues. In May, a week-long workshop was held at The Institute of Ismaili Studies in London for 32 participants from 19 countries.

The Waezeen Workshop aims to discuss the intellectual trends and challenges that impact the *Jamat* and the Ummah at large. It brings together waezeen from around the world to assist them in facilitating the *Jamat's* understanding and approaches to such challenges. In November, this seven day workshop took place in Dubai and was attended by 37 waezeen from 11 countries.



1998



1998



1999

Project Tajikistan

Summer Youth Camps in Russia and Tajikistan

Jamat

Whilst all our programmes service the *Jamat* through building leadership capacity and educational resources, the Summer Programme on Islam is targeted directly at the *Jamat*. This residential programme is aimed at providing a social, cultural and civilisational introduction to Islam, situating the Shi'a Ismaili *tariqah* within the larger context of the intellectual and historical development of Islam. The programme encourages critical thinking, reflection and discussion on important contemporary issues and themes of relevance to Islam and its Shi'a Ismaili *tariqah*. The content of the programme focuses on specific themes and case studies which enable participants to deliberate upon aspects of Muslim history, cultures, faith, practices, and particularly the issues associated with tradition, authority and modernity. Previously, this programme has been held at the University of Cambridge, but in August 2006 the programme was held at McGill University in Montreal, Canada for the first time. Based at the McGill International Executive Institute, and with the support of ITREB Canada and the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill, the programme attracted a record number of applications. In total 38 participants from 10 countries were selected to attend the programme. Further details on this programme may be found on the IIS website (www.iis.ac.uk).

Over the last 12 years, the IIS' Project Tajikistan has been collaborating with ITREC Tajikistan to deliver Summer Youth Camps to Ismaili youth in Russia and Tajikistan. To date approximately 15,000 individuals have participated in these camps which cater for the religious and cultural formation of youth and young adults from the ages of 12 to 25 years.

Each camp acts as a continuation of the Ta'lim programme and aims to engage with participants in a more open and interactive format. In particular, the camp setting allows for participants from remote villages and centres to share their experiences with others in a relaxed and informative context.

The initial phase of the programme started in 1995 when 120 participants attended *Urdugoh-e Saodat* (Camp Happiness) at a campsite in Porsheniev in the vicinity of Khorog. Since then, a total of five youth camps have been initiated throughout Gorno-Badakhshan. In addition to the youth camps, three camps catering to young adults aged from 18 to 25 years have also been developed. These camps cater for secondary

school and university graduates, and are held in June and September each year.

Outside of Badakhshan, a Summer Youth Camp has also been developed in Qaratogh Valley, a region north of Dushanbe. This month-long camp comprises two sessions and caters for Ismaili youth aged from 14 to 17 years. The IIS hopes to address the growing demand in Dushanbe by initiating an additional camp session in the near future.

During 2006, Project Tajikistan facilitated two camps in Tver, Russia to cater for 60 youth, aged from 12 to 17 years. Topics addressed during each camp cover a range of relevant topics including *Change & Continuity in Modern Society, Diversity & Pluralism, Healthy Society* (impact of undesirable habits) and *Work & Ethics of the AKDN*, among others. In addition to morning lectures, participants also have the opportunity to take part in discussions, plays and excursions as well as other sports and art related activities. Each camp is administered by trained counsellors whose role is to guide and facilitate the various lectures and activities.

Participants and faculty at the 2006 Summer Youth Camp for the Russian Jamat held in Moscow, Russia

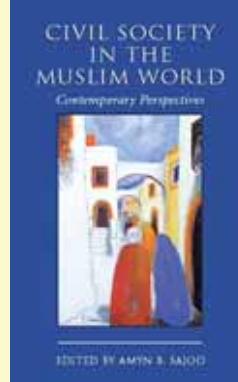




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Library

The Sayyidi Muhammad 'Ali Hamdani Collection

The Institute of Ismaili Studies received a major gift of rare and important manuscripts in 2006, through the generosity of Professor Abbas Hamdani of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Sayyidi Muhammad 'Ali Hamdani Collection of Ismaili and other manuscripts, which has been in the Hamdani family for several generations, represents one of the most significant collections of Ismaili writings in private hands. It has long been famous among scholars, many of whom have drawn on its holdings in the preparation of editions of Ismaili texts. The Institute of Ismaili Studies is honoured and profoundly grateful to serve as the future home of this priceless heritage.

The Hamdani Collection contains some 300 manuscripts and rare imprints in Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Gujarati. The Ismaili manuscripts are mostly authored by *da'is* from the pre-Fatimid period onwards. Also included are original works by Tayyibi Ismaili scholars of the 20th century. The collection contains rare manuscripts of seminal Ismaili works on philosophy, such as the *Rahat al-aql* of al-Kirmanī (the oldest surviving manuscript of this text), law, such as the *Da'a'im al-Islam* of al-Qadi al-Nu'man, and history, such as the *Iftitah al-Da'wa*, also by al-Qadi al-Nu'man, and volumes of the *Uyun al-Akhbar* and *Nuzhat al-Akhbar* of Idris 'Imad al-Din.



Manuscript of Abu Ya'qub al-Sijistani's *Kitab al-yanabi'*

There are also many works of importance for Islamic history in general, such as a catalogue of Abbasid decrees to their governors in Egypt before the establishment of the Fatimid state, and works on subjects as varied as astronomy, mathematics and medicine. Among other titles of interest, the *Nahj al-Balagha* is represented by a 300-year-old copy written by a woman calligrapher. There are also poignant curiosities, such as the manuscript of al-Hamidi's *Kanz al-*

Walad which Muhammad 'Ali Hamdani copied out in a secret script so that he could bring it safely along with him on the pilgrimage.

A certain number of these manuscripts were first brought to Surat from Yemen in the 18th century by Shaykh 'Ali ibn Sa'id of the Yaburi clan, a leading 'alim who died in 1798. He was an accomplished calligrapher and the collection contains manuscripts in his hand. His son Ibrahim and his



grand-son Fayd Allah continued to collect and preserve precious manuscripts, as did Muhammad 'Ali Hamdani, the latter's son and among the foremost scholars of the Tayyibi *da'wa* in his time. The collection thus has a fascinating provenance, attested by the many seals and signatures of Professor Hamdani's distinguished forebears.

Professor Abbas Hamdani was born in Surat and received his B.A. (Hons) and his L.L.B. from Bombay University, after which he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of London. After teaching in Karachi and in Cairo, he joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin where, for more than thirty years, he taught and carried out fundamental and influential research on Ismaili history before becoming Professor Emeritus in 2001. He has been recognised for his scholarship by many awards and fellowships and has lectured at universities world-wide. The author of more than fifty publications, he is currently writing a study of the *Rasa'il Ikhwan al-Safa'*. His daughter Sumaiya Hamdani is a professor at George Mason University where she continues the distinguished family tradition.

The Library of The Institute of Ismaili Studies will preserve all of the manuscripts in the Hamdani Collection, using microfilm and digital technologies. A catalogue of the holdings will be published by the Institute in due course, which will make the collection available to researchers world-wide.



Colophon page from Hamid al-Din Kirmani's *Taubih al-Hadi*



Title page of Abu Hatim al-Razi's *A'lam al nubuwwah*

Right:
Sayyidi Fayd Allah
Hamdani



Far right:
Prof. Abbas
Hamdani and
family





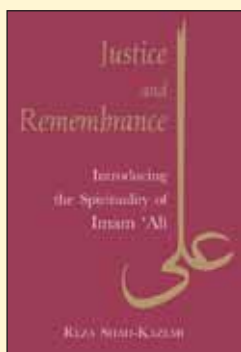
2003



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Department of Academic Research and Publications

Publications since last Update



Justice and Remembrance: Introducing the Spirituality of Imam 'Ali

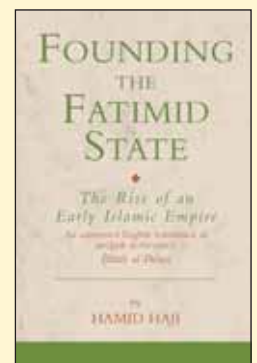
Imam 'Ali b. Abi Talib, son-in-law and cousin of the Prophet, first Shi'i Imam and fourth caliph of the nascent Muslim community, was described by the Prophet as the 'gate' to the city of knowledge. Indeed, Imam 'Ali is arguably the single most important spiritual and intellectual authority in Islam after the Prophet himself: to speak of Imam 'Ali is to speak of the quintessential spirituality of Islam. Despite his immense importance in the elaboration of the intellectual, ethical, spiritual, legal and political traditions of Islam, there is a lamentable dearth of literature in Western languages on his life and thought. This work, the first in English to seriously engage with his worldview, introduces some of the most salient intellectual and moral principles proper to the spirituality for which Imam 'Ali is chiefly renowned in Islam.

The present work consists of three parts. The first introduces the person of Imam 'Ali and his spirituality in a general manner, with a particular focus on the spiritual and ethical concomitants of the intellect in his teachings. The second evaluates Imam 'Ali's 'sacred conception of justice', using his famous letter to Malik al-Ashtar as the point of departure. The third addresses the theme of spiritual realization through the remembrance of God, *dhikru'Llah*, the central mystical practice of the Sufis. In this chapter the intimate connection between Imam 'Ali's teachings and later Sufi doctrines is explored. The present exposition is not only an important introduction to the thought of one of the seminal figures of the Islamic faith, it is also a valuable and most timely elucidation of the spirituality underlying ethical discourse and practice in Islam.

Founding the Fatimid State: The Rise of an Early Islamic Empire

This book is the most important primary source on the emergence of the Fatimid state in the early years of the tenth century. Its author, al-Qadi al-Nu'man, was an official historian of the Fatimids and an eminent exponent of Ismaili jurisprudence, as well as being perhaps the most prolific and versatile of all the Fatimid thinkers.

The *Iftitah al-Da'wa* is al-Nu'man's major historical work, and records in detail the background to the establishment of the Fatimid state, first in the Yemen and then in North Africa. It is based on official archival and biographical documents that were accessible to the author at the time, and which have not survived. It is thus a highly significant source on the religious, social and political conditions which prevailed when the Fatimids began to consolidate their rule. In charting the circumstances in which the Fatimid state came into being, this book will be of major interest and value to students of early medieval history and Islamic studies.

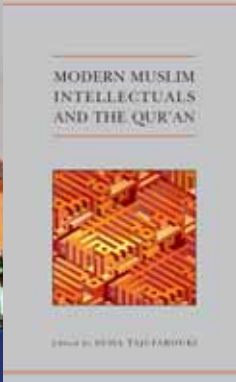


Attar and the Persian Sufi Tradition: The Art of Spiritual Flight

Farid al-Din 'Attar (d. 1221) was the principal Muslim religious poet of the second half of the twelfth century. Best known for his masterpiece *Mantiq al-tayr*, or *The Conference of Birds*, his verse is still considered to be the finest example of Sufi love poetry in the Persian language after that of Rumi. Distinguished by their provocative and radical theology of love, many lines of 'Attar's epics and lyrics are cited independently of their poems as maxims in their own right. These pithy, paradoxical statements are still known by heart and sung by minstrels throughout



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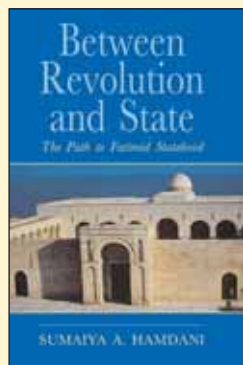


2006



2007

Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and wherever Persian is spoken or understood, such as in the lands of the Indo-Pakistani Subcontinent. Designed to complement *The Ocean of the Soul*, the classic study of ‘Attar by Hellmut Ritter, this volume offers the most comprehensive survey of ‘Attar’s literary works to date, and situates his poetry and prose within the wider context of the Persian Sufi tradition. The essays in the volume are grouped in three sections, and feature contributions by sixteen scholars from North America, Europe and Iran, which illustrate, from a variety of critical perspectives, the full range of ‘Attar’s monumental achievement. They show how and why ‘Attar’s poetical works, as well as his mystical doctrines, came to wield such tremendous and formative influence over the whole of the Persian Sufism tradition.



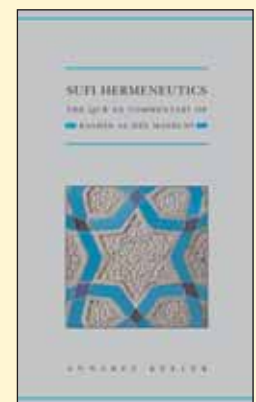
Between Revolution and State: The Path to Fatimid Statehood

This book examines the most important writings of a tenth-century Muslim theologian and jurist who was one of the most original thinkers of his period. It argues that al-Qadi al-Nu‘man’s works constituted new and vital genres in Ismaili Shi‘i literature, a development necessitated by the Fatimids’ transition from revolutionary movement to statehood, and by their desire to establish their authority as the Shi‘i alternative to the Sunni Abbasid caliphate.

Already famous in the Fatimid era, al-Nu‘man left a legacy which includes a formalised school of law, an early record of the Fatimid achievement in his historical and biographical works, new interpretations of Ismaili doctrine explored in his legal and esoteric writings and the formulation of a ceremonial language in his work on court protocol. *Between Revolution and State* explores all of these literary genres in depth and presents a sophisticated and readable analysis of one of the seminal figures of Islamic and Ismaili history.

Sufi Hermeneutics: The Qur’an Commentary of Rashid al-Din Maybudi

This book examines the Sufi approach to Qur’anic interpretation as exemplified in a twelfth-century Persian Qur’an commentary, Rashid al-Din Maybudi’s *Kashf al-asrar* (Unveiling of Mysteries). Written during one of the most exciting, formative periods in Sufism’s history, the commentary manifests the doctrines and the poetic language of love mysticism, which were to become essential elements in the later literature of Sufism. Dr Keeler analyses Maybudi’s approach to the Qur’an, examines the mystical doctrines of the *Kashf al-asrar* and shows how Maybudi conveys these teachings through his mystical interpretations of the stories of the prophets Abraham, Moses and Joseph.



Forthcoming Publications

Degrees of Excellence: A Fatimid Treatise on Leadership in Islam
Translated by Arzina R Lalani

Arts of the City Victorious: The Art and Architecture of the Fatimid Dynasty
By Jonathan Bloom

Lights to Illuminate the Proof of the Imamate
Translated by Paul E Walker

A Modern History of the Ismailis
By Farhad Daftary

The IIS - Significant Milestones

In April 1975 Mawlana Hazar Imam chaired a four-day conference in which leaders of the *Jamat* and several Ismaili scholars engaged in the fields of Islamic Studies or related areas were brought together in Paris. This historic meeting had on its agenda many items that would have far-reaching consequences for the *Jamat* across the world. One of these was the establishment of an academic institution, international in scope, charged with carrying out research on religious and cultural issues pertaining to Islam. Among the important purposes of this research was that of assisting the *Jamat* to gain a more informed and discerning knowledge of their traditions and to equip them to address their concerns in a changing world.

Almost two and a half years later, in August 1977, The Institute of Ismaili Studies opened its first offices in a series of

small suites in Central London. In addition to the Executive Officer and Board of Governors chaired by Mawlana Hazar Imam, the Institute soon hired academic and support staff and began to tackle some of the themes that were raised at the Paris Conference.

From its modest beginnings in the late 1970s, The Institute of Ismaili Studies has developed into a vibrant centre of learning, addressing not only the needs of the international Ismaili community, but also contributing to and participating in the contemporary debates of the Muslim world at large.

As the global *Jamat* prepares to celebrate Mawlana Hazar Imam's Golden Jubilee, we would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the significant events in the history of the IIS that were made possible through the Imam's leadership.

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| 1979 <i>Library established at the IIS as a central repository and resource for Ismaili Studies.</i> | 1998 <i>First publication in the Occasional Paper Series: The Poetics of Religious Experience.</i> |
| 1981 <i>Members of the Institute's Board of Governors, staff, faculty and first batch of students in the Library for a picture.</i> | 1999 <i>Expressions of the Pamir: Culture and Heritage of the Ismailis of Tajikistan begins an international tour.</i> |
| 1983 <i>First class of 42 students receive certificates from His Highness the Aga Khan on 7th July 1983 at Logan Hall, University of London Institute of Education.</i> | 2000 <i>Ismaili Texts and Translations Series launches with first publication: The Advent of the Fatimids.</i> |
| 1983 <i>First publication of the IIS: a translation of Henry Corbin's Cyclical Time and Ismaili Gnosis.</i> | 2000 <i>The Institute of Ismaili Studies website goes live (www.iis.ac.uk).</i> |
| 1984 <i>First collection catalogue is published, highlighting Arabic Manuscripts in the Institute's library.</i> | 2001 <i>Civil Society in the Muslim World Seminar Series</i> |
| 1985 <i>First preschool materials in the Ta'lim series, a programme of religious and cultural education, are published.</i> | 2001 <i>Qur'anic Studies Unit formed.</i> |
| 1990 <i>The first comprehensive study of the community in modern times, The Ismailis, is published through Cambridge University Press.</i> | 2002 <i>Central Asian Studies Unit formed.</i> |
| 1994 <i>First intake of 13 students in the new Graduate Programme in Islamic Studies and Humanities.</i> | 2003 <i>The Institute Commemorates its 25th Anniversary.</i> |
| 1995 <i>Project Tajikistan established. Annual Seminars in Tajikistan begin.</i> | 2003 <i>IIS convenes three-day international conference on Nasir Khusraw in Tajikistan.</i> |
| 1996 <i>First book in the Ismaili Heritage Series is published: Abu Ya'qub al-Sijistani: Intellectual Missionary.</i> | 2003 <i>IIS convenes a conference in London on Word of God, Art of Man: The Qur'an and its Creative Expressions Colloquium.</i> |
| 1998 <i>KK Aziz signs copies of his Selected Speeches and Writings of Sir Sultan Muhammad Shah.</i> | 2004 <i>The Institute's first book in the Qur'anic Studies Series: Modern Muslim Intellectuals and the Qur'an.</i> |
| | 2006 <i>IIS launches new website dedicated to its Alumni.</i> |
| | 2007 <i>IIS Launches Secondary Teacher Education Programme.</i> |

New Appointments



Dr P. Amanda Harris joined the Institute of Ismaili Studies as Head of Human Resource Services at the beginning of 2007. Dr Harris has been working in the field of Human Resources for over 20 years, initially starting corporate life as an Occupational Psychologist. More recently she has been working as

Chief Executive of a UK-wide mental health charity. Originally from County Durham, Dr Harris now lives in Brighton, UK.

Dr Harris' main interests lie in organisational change and evidence-based decision-making. In her spare time, Dr Harris undertakes lectures for MBA students on public policy issues and also engages in voluntary work for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NIHCE).

In particular her voluntary work with the NIHCE provides an opportunity for her to engage in another of her interests, structural equation modelling using data from large randomised controlled trials.

Ms Rana Aliakbar
Design & Production Officer
Department of Education

Ms Nadia Holmes
Editor
Department of Academic Research and Publications

If you have feedback or would like to update your contact details, please email us at rdc@iis.ac.uk.

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