



What are Scholars saying about IEQ

“It is of the utmost importance to have scholarly works on the Qur’an of the highest quality, which would be acceptable as scholarly work in the non-Islamic parts of the world (especially in the West), but which would be from a Muslim point of view. We need Islamic scholarship that is authentically Islamic, not just composed by scholars with Muslim names, and which at the same time addresses the central issues of Islam, its sacred Scripture, its laws, its theology, philosophy, and so forth. *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* is one such contribution to that laudable and absolutely essential goal. And for that reason, all those who are involved in this project should be congratulated. **These volumes will soon be in every library in the West**, so that if someone is reading about tafsir, they not only go to a Western interpretation of the Muslim commentary traditions but also one that is from an Islamic point of view. **This is a great service to Islam, a great service to Islamic studies in the West, and a great service to comparative religious studies into the future.**”

Seyyed Hossein Nasr
University Professor of Islamic Studies
George Washington University,
Washington D.C, USA

“*The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* is the **most beneficial project of our time**. Its goal is to convey the authentic message of the Noble Qur’an to the contemporary readers by tapping into the Book of Allah, the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and by following the path of the traditional scholarship laid out by the righteous forebears.”

Imam Yousef Abu Sneineh
Imam and Khateeb, Masjid Al-Aqsa

“This is **the greatest project on the Book of Allah that Muslims have ever undertaken** in the last few centuries. It is poised to bring to the world the highest level of scholarship on the Qur’an.”

(Late) Dr Israr Ahmad
Founder, Tanzeem-e- Islam

“*The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* **responds to the urgent need for an academic resource** about the Qur’an and the Qur’anic sciences that is rooted in Islamic understanding and scholarship. The quality, rigor, and depth of scholarship in the first volume is impressive.”

Faraz Rabbani
Executive Director, Seekershub Global

“*The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* provides Muslims and non-Muslims alike with English-language access to a world of erudite Muslim scholarship that is not easily accessible in any other way. This exceptional undertaking is of value both to Muslims and to others for whom high-quality scholarship on the Qur’an written from a Muslim perspective has been hard to access in languages other than Arabic. **Scholars of all types will benefit** from this direct insight into the fascinating world of Qur’anic scholarship and tradition.”

Andrew Colin Gow
Professor and Director of Religious Studies
University of Alberta, AB, Canada

“The people undertaking the *Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* are poised in the middle of a great venture, not just for defense of our religion and our beliefs but an absolving of ourselves from the debt that is placed upon all scholars to combat misinformation and spread the truth about Islam. They work with limited resources, reliant on Allah’s guidance and eager only for His mercy, and **they deserve nothing less than our full support** by pen, by money, by word and deed.”

(Late) Muhammad Mustafa Al-Azami
Professor Emeritus, King Saud University

“I think the *Integrated Encyclopedia of the Quran* is **going to have a major impact** on the understanding of the Qur’an for both Muslims and non-Muslims. For the first time in history, we will have a reference work on the Qur’an in English language that presents 1400 years of Islamic reflection and scholarship. This will also be a work which will bring to the scholars and general readers a wealth of classical material on all aspects of the Qur’an. Such a work has been long overdue.”

Abdalla Idris Ali
Executive Director, ISNA Canada

“This is an exceedingly important venture. The field of Qur’anic studies has been left for too long to those who do not believe in the Qur’an to be a revealed text. It is time that Muslims realize their collective obligation to the Book. The idea conceived by Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal is of utmost importance: to produce a reference work on the Qur’an steeped in the 1400 centuries of Islamic scholarship, a work that meets, rather excels, existing standards of academic scholarship, but which does not compromise Muslim belief in the Divine origins of the Qur’an. The International University of Islamabad lends its full support and would do whatever it can to help this venture. This is a project conceived by one man, but it is, in fact, for all of us—it deserves the support of the whole Ummah. We are fully behind you, go ahead with God’s support and help.”

(Late) Zafar Ishaq Ansari
Director
International Institute of Islamic Research

“It is indeed a superb piece of work, **excellently conceived and scrupulously executed**, a vast and authoritative compendium of scholarship on the Qur’an. All the contributors deserve to be congratulated on their labors. Having myself contributed to a number of encyclopedias over the years, I know

of the vast amount of effort required to produce deceptively brief summations of complex topics.”

Hamid Algar
Professor Emeritus of Persian studies
Near Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley

“I have seen the first volume. I think it is a work of exceptional scholarship. It is very vigorous academically. It is done with a very high level of beauty and intelligence. It is something that the Muslim community can be proud of, because, unfortunately, most of the encyclopedias on Islam produced in the West are done by people of other faiths, whereas this is a Muslim initiative and it is very important. I sincerely hope that people will support it. Now the second volume is coming out and by the time it is done, I think, it will be a standard in the field. It will probably be translated into other languages, such as Urdu, Turkish, and Arabic because of its excellence. So, I think it is really worth supporting it and I hope that all of you support it, I certainly do in my own limited capacity.”

Hamza Hansen Yusuf
President, Zaytuna College

“It is with great honor that I wish to give support to *The Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur’an* project. May Allah *Subhanahu wa Ta’ala* bless Dr. Muzaffar and his entire team that is undertaking this immense and ever-so-important project. In relation to the communal obligations, I really believe that serving the Qur’an and preserving its message is of utmost importance. A project like this in English language is long, long overdue. It is one of the most important of all obligations in relation to the Qur’an. Three characteristics of IEQ project really stand out in my mind: **First and foremost is the soundness of vision.** I know that Dr. Muzaffar and his team spent an extensive period of time researching and developing its methodology and underpinnings. And this idea of integrating 1400 years of scholarship on the Qur’an is a very powerful idea, because this scholarship is, in a sense a type of explication of the meanings of the Qur’an and integrating it in a way that it becomes accessible is one of the great blessings of this project. **Secondly, the scholarly vigor.** I know that Dr. Muzaffar and his team are well-trained for this project and they have developed a painstaking editing process whereby the finalized entries are of highest academic standard. **Thirdly and finally, when I think of IEQ project, I think of piety.** I believe the individuals involved in this project are sincere, I believe them to be people who have devoted themselves to the service of Allah and His Messenger and this is of utmost importance, because when you combine the inward sincerity with outward scholarly vigor and hard work, it only produces what is truly beautiful and this is something we truly hope and believe in relation to the future of the IEQ project, that it will be a great resource and a catalyst for abundant good within the Muslim world and beyond, for the English speaking world and beyond as it is translated—inshaAllah—into other languages. And I really hope that as we see in this blessed practical example of the use of the English language in the service of Islam, that inshallah Allah *Tabarak wa Ta’ala* will give them the utmost *tawfiq* to make their project to be of utmost benefit not only for people of our times, but also for people of future and may Allah *Ta’ala* bless them and give them *tawfiq* in all their affairs.”

Yahya Rhodus
Al-Maqasid, Allentown, USA



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PAI/PM/AMZ/8 (87)
14 Disember 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

THE INTEGRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE QURAN

I am very happy to know that Islamic scholars and well wishers have come forward to compile the Integrated Encyclopedia of the Quran. This is a welcoming and timely effort.

2. The Islamic world and the Muslim ummah is ready for a development thrust based on the true teachings of the Quran and the legacy of the achievements in the first millennium of Islam. The present initiative, I understand, will consolidate the views and commentaries of experts and scholars in the study of the Quran.

3. I look forward to the completion of the work and its publication. In this regards, I fully support the initiative and hope that the work will succeed as planned.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(DATO' DR. ABDULLAH BIN MD ZIN)



**RIPHAH
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

**Prof. Anis Ahmad Ph.D
Vice Chancellor**

**No./VC/RIU/09/23
Dated: Dec 30, 2009**

Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal
Editor in Chief
Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'an
349-52252 Range Road 215
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Canada

Subject: Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'an

Dear brother Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal
Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmat Allah

We are delighted to learn about the work in progress on the Integrated Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an which aims at bringing together an integrated view of over 1400 years of Muslim scholarship about the Qur'an for easy access by all. We are very happy that Muslim scholars all over the world are contributing to this effort.

On behalf of Riphah International University, I would like to confirm our full support and endorsement for this work. We would also like to confirm that we are interested in contributing our share in publication of first volume. Please provide an estimate of cost involved.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad

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MA.cs.176.09

20th August 2009

Dr Muzaffar Iqbal
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CANADA

Dear Dr Muzaffar Iqbal

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah

It is with great pleasure that I have come to learn of the encouraging work progressing on the Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'an. It is most heartening to learn also that Muslim scholars worldwide are contributing to this worthy cause.

On behalf of the Islamic Foundation, UK, I have no hesitation in lending our support and endorsement for this noble venture. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask us and we will do our best to respond in a speedy and effective manner.

We are all very much looking forward to sight of the published work once it has been completed.

With warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely

M. M. Ahsan.

Dr M Manazir Ahsan
Director General



الجامعة الإسلامية العالمية ماليزيا
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA
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(Company No 101067-P)

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR

Our Ref. No : IIUM/102/14/10

Date : Tuesday, 12th January 2010 / 26 Muharram 1431

Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal
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Dear Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

INTEGRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE QUR'AN

As Rector of IIUM, I am delighted to learn that you are currently working on the publication of Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'an. I am particularly happy with your aim to bring together the best of Muslim scholarship on the Qur'an over the last 1400 years so that the encyclopedia may become an authentic reference work on this divine revelation from the perspective of those who truly believe in it for the benefit of Muslims and non Muslim alike.

This effort in fact in line with IIUM's vision and mission and for that reason, I fully endorse this project and pray for its success.

May Allah bless you and those involved in this project for all your efforts.

Yours sincerely

PROF. DATO' SRI DR. SYED ARABI IDID
Rector



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Garden of Knowledge and Virtue

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A dream come true

I still can vividly remember the day when I first met the General Editor of the *IEQ*. It was shortly after the publication of the last volume of the infamous Brill's *Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*. What was most striking, in fact awakening, about him was the sheer passion with which he talked about this defiled "fountain" from which many a generation to come will quench their innocent, unsuspecting thirst for knowledge about the Qur'an. The burning issue in Dr. Iqbal's mind at that time was how to muster the necessary, truly Muslim decisive action to quell this tide and make the true light of the Qur'an shine through and dispel the murky pool of Qur'anic knowledge usually latent in Western minds. Yes, I can still remember the mighty, humble gait with which he bade me farewell, and the many vexed questions he left me with on how to bring something like this about given the collective inertia and the lack of the vital organizational know-how that characterizes the present state of our Nation.

However, I was not left wondering for long when he sent me the style sheet for what was later to become known as the *Integrated Encyclopedia of the Qur'an*. From then on, news trickled through as how the necessary resources, both intellectual and to some extent financial, were bolstered to make this worthy dream come true. Now we can behold this benign giant materializing. And hopefully, in due course, it will be in the hands of the free-spirited who wish to learn the truth.

Sheer will power, incessant hard work and calculated methodology aside, what made this noble project come to fruition against all the odds is honest intentions. When asked about the usefulness of compiling his *Muwatta'* while there were similar works being compiled elsewhere, Imam Malik replied: 'What is for God remains'. In another narration he said: 'Son! Tomorrow intentions will be tested'. None other than his braved the passage of time and still remains with us as of this day.

I am very optimistic that this blessed endeavour will capture the essence of the Qur'anic message and the true spirit of Islam and make it known to those who pay heed.

As the froth, it vanishes into the earth, but that which benefits mankind remains on the ground. Thus does God strike parable. (Q 13:17)

Dr. Waleed Bleyhesh al-Amri

Editor,

Journal of Qur'anic Research and Studies

King Fahd Qur'an Printing Complex

Madinah Munawwarah,

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia