CALL FOR PAPERS : 3rd INTERNATIONAL NURSI STUDIES
CONFERENCE IN INDIA, 2014

The Risale-i Nur : Knowledge, Faith, Morality and the Future of Humanity

ORGANIZERS:
ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, INDIA
ISTANBUL FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE AND CULTURE, TURKEY

1. Scope and Objectives

Scholars today frequently suggest that the problems besetting us stem from moral degeneration and the abandoning of ethical principles. It is, as though, while making giant strides in the world of science and technology, humanity has forgotten the fundamental principles underlying existence and has neglected essential human values. People are continuously motivated to live only to earn more and consume more. In the pace of life, the spiritual and moral sides of human nature seem to have been forgotten. Homes have grown larger, but families have grown smaller, and are dispersed. Human beings have journeyed to the depths of space, but have strayed from the paths leading inward to their own selves. As mass communications grows all-encompassing, relations within family and among neighbors are getting minimal. News channels have multiplied, but truth and reliability have diminished and disappeared. Information technology has been developed to an astonishing degree, but psychological problems, social injustices, global crises, and ecological disasters have also increased. As the world grows smaller, problems grow larger so that they now clearly threaten the material and spiritual future of humanity.

How has all this happened? Science should have brought greater understanding of the human being, nature, and the purpose of creation, and assisted in their fulfillment. Was it that science was misunderstood or misused? Was it utilized solely in serving particular interests and material needs? Could it be that the source of these problems was the absence of faith and spirituality, which keep humanity from excess and turn them towards doing good? Was it the loss of spirituality that has been the cause of people suffering loneliness and unhappiness and their becoming insensitive and belligerent? These questions need close study, for only then may the answers be found and human beings live with the dignity they deserve. Certainly numerous civil and social organizations work to rectify these problems, but more often than not, they neglect spiritual aspects, offering partial solutions that hinder development.
The Risale-i Nur, a contemporary commentary on the Qur’an’s message by Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, offers numerous solutions for these problems. Its method is based on acquiring knowledge and harnessing it in the best of ways; that is, as a means of attaining to “belief by investigation,” and on constructing a morality understanding proceeding from these principles. Academics, specialists, and writers of all disciplines from all over the world are invited to explore and examine the contributions of The Risale-i Nur to peace, prosperity, and happiness of humankind, and to present papers on related topics.

2. Subtitles, with reference to the Risale-i Nur

The Contemporary World and Current Situation
Crises Afflicting Contemporary Societies and Suggested Solutions
The Nature of Knowledge and its Utilization for Human Happiness
The Relationship of Knowledge and Faith, and their Rendering Existence Meaningful
The Importance of Strengthening Faith in the Face of the Positivist Understanding of Science
The Dimensions and Facets of Morality, based on Faith and Knowledge
The Problems of Racism and Social Injustice, and their Solutions
The Factors Nurturing a Culture of Violence, and their Solutions
Solutions for Problems Arising from Multicultural Differences
The Role of Faith in Developing a Sense of Responsibility and Accountability
Holistic Approaches to Morality and the Future of Humanity
Nursi’s Method of Service Based on Incapability (acizlik), Poverty (fakirlik), and Compassion (merhamet) as a Solution for Individual and Social Problems
Nursi’s Understanding of Mutual Assistance, Compassion, and Solidarity
The Contributions of Nursi’s Approach to Economics in Solving Human Problems
Problems Arising from Modernity and the Solutions Offered by the Risale-i Nur
Problems Caused by Secularization and Views on Their Solution
Solutions Related to the Manipulation of Political Problems
Solutions for Problems Related to Consumerism
The Role of Faith in Developing a Sense of Compassion and Fellow-feeling
Solutions for Problems Stemming from Religious Differences

3. Important Notes

- The Conference will take place in Aligarh Muslim University, February 11-12, 2014.

- Papers should be submitted to the Conference Secretariat by the below indicated dates. Late arrivals will not be considered.
  - Abstracts for the papers, not exceeding 250 words, should be submitted to the Symposium Secretariat no later than 5th of January, 2014. Accompanying the papers should be a CV of applicants no longer than half a page in length. Both abstract and CV should be in MS Word format.
  - For their study and evaluation by the Secretariat, full papers should be submitted no later than 5th of February, 2014. The papers should not exceed 15 pages.

- Papers should be within the framework of the above topics and written with reference to *the Risale-i Nur*.

- Digital copies of the books composing *the Risale-i Nur* collection along with a wide variety of documentation related to the *Risale-i Nur* is available for study on nursistudies.com nuroonline.com

The Symposium Documentation Centre will assist in providing further material if required. In addition to reading the English translation of *Risale-i Nur* by Sukran Vahide, we encourage the participants to consult the following sources:


Ian Markham, Engaging with Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, (Ashgate Press, 2009)


• Presentations can be delivered either in English or Arabic

4. Contact for Information / Abstract Submissions

Abstract Submission Website :
http://www.iikv.org/ocs/index.php/aligarh/aligarh/author/submit

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One Response to CALL FOR PAPERS : 3rd INTERNATIONAL NURSI STUDIES CONFERENCE IN INDIA, 2014

1. Dr. Ilatif Hussain S. Kazmi says:

December 5, 2013 at 7:17 pm

Thanks for the information about the seminar at Aligarh Muslim University on 11-12 Feb. 2014. I shall submit my abstract within time and present my paper also.
See more at: http://nursistudies.com/?p=612#sthash.8MclQSQx.dpuf