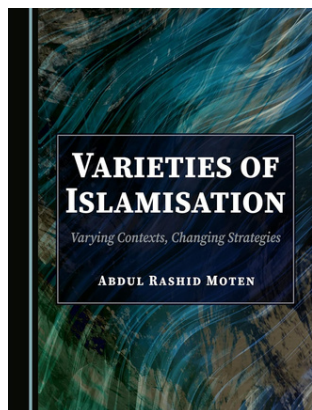


# CENTRIS E-BULLETIN

The official bulletin of CENTRIS, IIUM

MAY - JUNE 2024 VOL. 3



PAGE:  
**25**  
BOOK REVIEW

REMINISCENCE



PAGE:  
**32**



GEMS OF WISDOM



PAGE:  
**5**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK 1

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK 3

- The Ontology on an Intellectual

## KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY 5

- The First Rector of IIUM in the words of the Third Rector

## FIGURE 12

- Mohd. Kamal Hassan (1942-2023): Remembering a *Murabbī*

## CURRENT AFFAIRS 17

- An Example of How the Israelites Distorted History and Scriptures
- Misconceptions of *Jahada* and *Qatala*

## BOOK REVIEW 25

- Varieties of Islamisation: Varying Contexts and Changing Strategies. By Abdul Rashid Moten. United Kingdom: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2023, pp. 190

## REMINISCENCE 32

- Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences: Recollections of a Former Student

## SHAS MOSQUE 52

- Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (SHAS) Mosque Activities

## EVENTS 51

- CENTRIS E-journal: Call for Articles
- Webinar Report: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) from Medical and Islamic Perspectives
- Anecdotes
- Revivers Events

## PROFESSOR EMERITUS TAN SRI DR. KAMAL HASSAN

The narrative of Allah's Prophet Yaḥyā A.S. (John) is recounted in Chapter 19 of the Qur'an (*Surah Maryam*), where his values, virtues, qualities, and sacrifice are acknowledged by the Almighty. The key aspects of his story include:

- 1 He guarded Allāh's revelation with all his might (19:12).
- 2 He was rewarded with immense wisdom (19:12).
- 3 Compassion, gentle pity, and love for all of Allāh's creatures (*hanān*) (19:13)
- 4 He maintained purity (*zakāt*) in his words, interactions, and actions (19:13).
- 5 He was devout (*taqiyy*) (19:13).
- 6 He was dutiful toward his parents (19:14).
- 7 He exhibited neither arrogance nor disobedience (19:14).

The scholars of the *Ummah* of the Messenger (P.B.U.H.) are esteemed as inheritors of the traits, characters, virtues, and values of the prophets. Tan Sri Professor Emeritus Dr. Mohd. Kamal Hassan - henceforth "Prof. Kamal" (26 October 1942 – 23 February 2023) can be regarded as a scholar who fulfilled his role admirably as an academician and activist, embodying the aforementioned qualities of Prophet Yaḥyā A.S.

His family, colleagues, and students attest that he was a soft-spoken and well-mannered intellectual who advocated for integrated and holistic approaches. Due to his humility, deeply caring personality, integrity, cordiality, helpful mentality, and profound spirituality, he became a household name within the IIUM fraternity.



During a tribute session to Prof. Kamal held on February 27, 2023, his colleagues, who had collaborated with him for over three decades, recalled the *Qur'anic* verses frequently cited by him. Some of them are listed below:

1. **“True servants of the Compassionate (Allāh) are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant people address them, they say: “Peace;”” (25:63).**
2. **“Successful indeed is the one who purifies their soul, and indeed failure will be the one who corrupts it” (91:9-10).**
3. **“We have made you a just (median or moderate) community so that you may testify against mankind and that your own Messenger may testify against you” (2:143).**
4. **“Those truly fear Allāh among His Servants who have knowledge” (35:24)**

Allāh provides us with examples to guide us in choosing our path and emulating role models. Prof. Kamal is esteemed by many as a *Murabbī*, a fatherly figure, a moral compass, and a *Murshid*. He firmly held onto the *kitab* (Allah’s revelation and Revealed Knowledge) amidst a world corrupted by sin, boldly rebuking and condemning the spread of wrongdoing. In 2021, he published his intellectual legacy through the book “Corruption and Hypocrisy in Malay Muslim Politics: The Urgency of Moral-Ethical Transformation,” to rectify the lamentable moral decline in the realm of politics and governance in Malaysia, his homeland.

● Figure | **Mohd. Kamal Hassan (1942-2023): Remembering a Murabbi.**

With a steadfast commitment to nurturing an educational ethos grounded in the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah, he devoted his entire life to championing the Islamisation of knowledge. As a revered scholar, he dedicated himself to imparting the core principles of Islam to his students, equipping them with the moral fortitude needed to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

His profound wisdom was not only evident in his teachings but also in his pivotal role in shaping the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). It was he who meticulously crafted the concept papers that laid the foundation for the university's establishment in 1983 and the formation of the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences in 1989.

In essence, he served as the master architect of IIUM's intellectual landscape. Upon assuming the role of Rector in 1999, he further propelled the Islamisation of Knowledge initiative, ensuring its integration into the university's core values and mission.

Under his visionary leadership, IIUM's Strategic Plan of 2013 reaffirmed Islamisation as not just a mission but as the very bedrock upon which the university stood. Through these efforts, IIUM aimed to revive the dynamic and progressive role of the Muslim Ummah across all spheres of knowledge and intellectual discourse.

During a lengthy interview conducted at his office in ISTAC, Kuala Lumpur, on June 6, 2014, I inquired Prof. Kamal about the driving forces behind his steadfast dedication to advancing the Islamic philosophy of education and his profound commitment to Islam.



● Figure | Mohd. Kamal Hassan (1942-2023): Remembering a Murabbī.

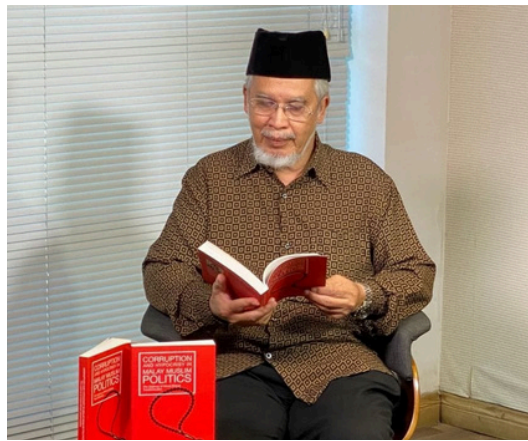
In response to this inquiry, Prof. Kamal elucidated three pivotal factors.

**Firstly, he emphasised Islam's all-encompassing nature as a comprehensive way of life that inherently prioritizes education.** Regrettably, during the colonial era, many Muslim-majority regions underwent a process of Westernization in their educational paradigms, resulting in a divisive schism between religious and secular systems. This schism was perpetuated by leaders largely drawn from Westernized and secularized elites, exerting significant influence on the direction of Muslim societies. Recognizing this disparity, Prof. Kamal endeavored to address it.

**Secondly, Prof. Kamal's expertise lies in Islamic thought within Southeast Asia.** As a devout student of Islam, he bears deep concerns about the secular modernization sweeping through Muslim nations. His active involvement in Muslim students' associations during his tenure at the University of Malaya and later in the United States underscores the urgent need for reform not only in the educational system but also in other societal structures, including politics, economics, culture, and media. His academic journey in the field of Islamic Revealed Knowledge further ignites his dedication to this cause.

**Thirdly, the establishment of the International Islamic University in 1983 represented a significant milestone aimed at bridging the gap between religious and secular education.** Founded on the principle of integrating worldly and religious knowledge (*ʿUlūm al-Dunyā and ʿUlūm al-Dīn*), IIUM embodies Prof. Kamal's vision for harmonising various disciplines while imbuing them with Islamic principles. His active involvement in the university's mission of integration, internationalisation, and Islamisation, as encapsulated in the IIUM mission statement, reflects his unwavering commitment to advancing the Islamisation of human knowledge and fostering comprehensive excellence.

● Figure | **Mohd. Kamal Hassan (1942-2023): Remembering a Murabbī.**



Remembering a *murabbī* is to contemplate the values, virtues, qualities, and sacrifices embodied by them, and to strive to emulate these traits by all who undertake the role of *tarbiyah*. A *murabbī* serves as both a reference book and a moral compass, and their memories inspire sincerity and commitment in our endeavors. May Allah bless his soul and grant him *Jannat al-Firdaus*.



**Dr. Sayyed Mohamed Muhsin**  
AHAS KIRKHS



eISSN 2811-342X



9 772811 342006