

CENTRIS E-BULLETIN

The official bulletin of CENTRIS, IIUM

MARCH - APRIL 2024 VOL. 2



6

**History of the
Emblem of the
IIUM**

8

**The Axis of the
Jerusalem and
Makkah
Paradigms**

13

**The Spiritual
Enhancement
Programmes and
Activities of SHAS
Mosque (Part II)**

1. Gems of Wisdom from the Forebears of IIUM: “Tan Sri Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf”

2. Know your University: “The History of the University Emblem”.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK	1
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	2
• “Communiversality” as a Portmanteau	
GEMS OF WISDOM FROM THE FOREBEARS OF IIUM	4
• Tan Sri Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf: On Good Characters	
KNOW YOUR UNIVERSITY	6
• History of the Emblem of the International Islamic University Malaysia	
CURRENT AFFAIRS	8
• The Axis of the Jerusalem and Makkah Paradigms	
SHAS MOSQUE	13
• The Spiritual Enhancement Programmes and Activities of Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Mosque CENTRIS in Gombak (Part II)	
• Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (SHAS) Mosque Activities	
• i-Masjid	
EVENTS	33
• CENTRIS E-journal: Call for Articles	
• Webinar on Gender Dysphoria II	
• Revivers Events	

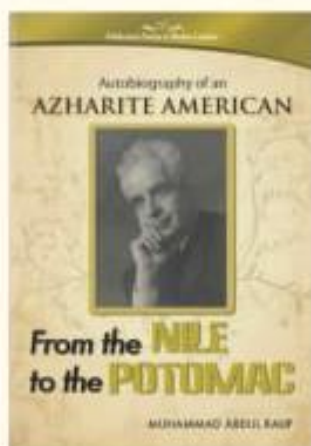
1.

Gems of Wisdom from the Forebears of IIUM

Tan Sri Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf

ON GOOD CHARACTERS

“It is now approximately ten years since I resigned. Soon, I will be 87 years old. Will I live until 89 as my father did? Only Allah knows. In my life, and especially in my duties as Imam, **I strove to be a model of good behaviour and an embodiment of the Islamic virtues of patience, endurance, forgiveness, and clemency. I do not mean to imply that I am endowed with all of these meritorious qualities. Rather, I humbly plead to Almighty Allah to forgive my shortcomings and failures.** Looking back, I am awed by my journey from an impoverished village in Egypt to oil-rich Kuwait, the United Kingdom, multi-racial Malaysia, and New York City, America's power hub: Washington D.C., the United Arab Emirates, and back to Malaysia.



I hope my stories may relate the differences of my experiences due to history and locale, while underlining the common humanity of all of us. The Noble Qur'an undermines any stark opposition set between the East and the West: "To God belongs the East and the West." Amen.

—”

(Muhammad Abdul Rauf. 2012. *Autobiography of an Azharite American: from the Nile to the Potomac*. USIM: Bandar Baru Nilai). Emphasis mine.

Biography

Born on December 27th, 1917, Tan Sri Professor Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rauf served as the IIUM's first Rector from 1983 to 1988. He was an epitome of the IIUM, a towering yet humble scholarly figure of the budding garden that was soon to bloom into a "Garden of Knowledge and Virtue". A global academic and humanitarian, he strove to be the best that he could ever be and contributed as much as he ever could for humanity, bridging between the East and the West - in Malaysia, the Arab world, in the Western lands and in Africa - wherever he was, with mercy (Raḥmah).

Muhammad Abdul Rauf, like the IIUM, the first international Islamic university of the contemporary world for which he served and represented as her first Rector, was truly beyond global. Comparable to the numerous devout Muslim scholars and intellectuals of earlier eras carrying the message of Raḥmatan li'l-'Ālamīn (Mercy to all the Worlds) of the blessed Prophet Muhammad (ṣ'aw), Muhammad Abdul Rauf was indeed universal (al-'ālamīn). He passed away on December 11th, 2004, at the age of 87. The excerpt above was written shortly before his passing. May Allah, by His Grace and Mercy, bless his soul and elevate him to be with the prophets (anbiyā'), sages (auliyā'), martyrs (shuhadā'), and those closest to Rabb al-'Ālamīn, The Lord of the Universe.



Dr. Nur Jannah Hassan
Head of Scholars Channel (Qanāt al-Mashāyikh),
Office for Islamisation, Integration and
Relevantisation (OFIIR), CENTRIS, IIUM.

2.

Know your University

History of the Emblem of the International Islamic University Malaysia

Sometime after the establishment of the IIUM in 1983, Professor Dr. Mohd Kamal Hassan mulled over the idea of an emblem for the young University. With his deft artistic hands, he combined his scholarly vision and mission of the University with his deep knowledge of the Qur'an and fond penchant for the Kufi Arabic calligraphy to come out with a draft. Upon the completion of the draft on January 16th, 1985, Professor Kamal brought the piece to the University authorities and deliberated his ideas contained within. It was then decided that a competition should be held, and the winning design would then be adopted as the University's emblem. Professor Kamal consigned an artist to reproduce the design and had the latter to partake in the competition. The artist won. The University then decided to simplify the design by taking only the centre emblem without the eight crescents.



The original draft of the IIUM logo, designed and encapsulated from the vision and mission of Professor Dr. Mohd. Kamal Hassan, who then served as IIUM's third Rector. The artwork's completion was on January 16th, 1985. Professor Kamal wrote the IIUM's concept paper on February 11th, 1982, and May 20th, 1983, is the establishment date of the University. People can view the original artwork at the M. Kamal Hassan Memorial Library, Level 4, M. Abdul Rauf Building, IIUM, Gombak.





Know your University

Two outstanding and very crucial elements of the original design need to be emphasised and brought to the fore. These are the two Qur’anic verses in light green calligraphy:

أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

.Read! In the Name of your Lord and Cherisher, Who Created" (Q. al-‘Alaq, 96:1)"

... إِنَّمَا يَخْشَى اللَّهَ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ الْعُلَمَاءُ ...

"... Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, [are those] who have knowledge..." (Q. Fāṭir, 35:28).

Together with their contexts, the two verses of the Qur’an became the cornerstones of the philosophy of the University. The pursuit of knowledge at the IUM through “readings” (Iqra’) of the Signs of Allah (Āyāt Allāh) abundant in the Qur’an and in the Open Book of Nature, must be for the sake of none other than to serve Allah The Most High, The Creator, The Owner, The Lord Cherisher-Sustainer of everything that exists, The Teacher and Giver of Knowledge, to gain His Pleasure.

Scholars (‘ulamā’) of the different disciplines of knowledge and sciences, having mastered the secrets and intricacies of nature, must, by principle, be the most awed by Allah’s Power and Dominion clearly seen in His Signs in nature, submitting humbly to The Creator of nature with utmost love (hubb) and ever fearful (khasyah) of causing His displeasure. The knowledge that one attains, must therefore rightly bring one closer to God, The One and Only Creator, in humility and gratitude, rather than the contrary, as warned in the following verses:

كَلَّا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لِرَبِّهِ لَكَنُفٍ ○ أَن رَّآهُ اسْتَكْبَرَ ○ إِنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ أَلْحِقُ

Nay, but man does transgress all bounds. In that he looks upon himself as self-sufficient. Surely to your Lord is your return" (Q. al-‘Alaq, 96: 6-8)

Dr. Nur Jannah Hassan
 Head of Scholars Channel (Qanāt al-Mashāyikh),
 Office for Islamisation, Integration and
 Relevantisation (OFIIR), CENTRIS, IUM.

