

ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE

DIMENSIONS OF THOUGHT

Edited By
THAMEEM USHAMA



IIUM Press

**ISLAMIC REVEALED
KNOWLEDGE**
Dimensions of Thought

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Muḥammad Farīd Wajdī's Discourse on the Integration of Religion and Science

Adibah binti Abdul Rahim

Introduction

Born in 1875¹ in Alexandria, Muḥammad Farīd Wajdī² received his early education in a non-Azhar school, including a French school.³ His father maintained a large library at home in which he used to read the Arabic-Islamic classics and study traditional subjects. The first sixteen years of his life was spent in Alexandria. Later, he moved to Cairo, the then center of intellectual life in the Muslim world. He attended secondary school there, again outside of the Azhar system.⁴ It was in Cairo that he spent time studying French until he mastered the language; he also studied various branches of knowledge including literature, natural sciences, jurisprudence, history, and Islamic law. Having spent two years in Cairo, he moved to Dimyaṭ where his active intellectual life began and the central themes for his career were formulated.⁵ He observed the approach of traditional religious scholars who were thoroughly entrapped within the classical discourse. He therefore suggested that the method of religious research was to read all books; traditional as well as modern.⁶ From the time in Dimyaṭ, his thoughts were concerned with the split in Egyptian society