



THE NECESSITY OF RELEVANTISATION OF ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE DISCIPLINES



M.Kamal Hassan

**Paper presented
at**

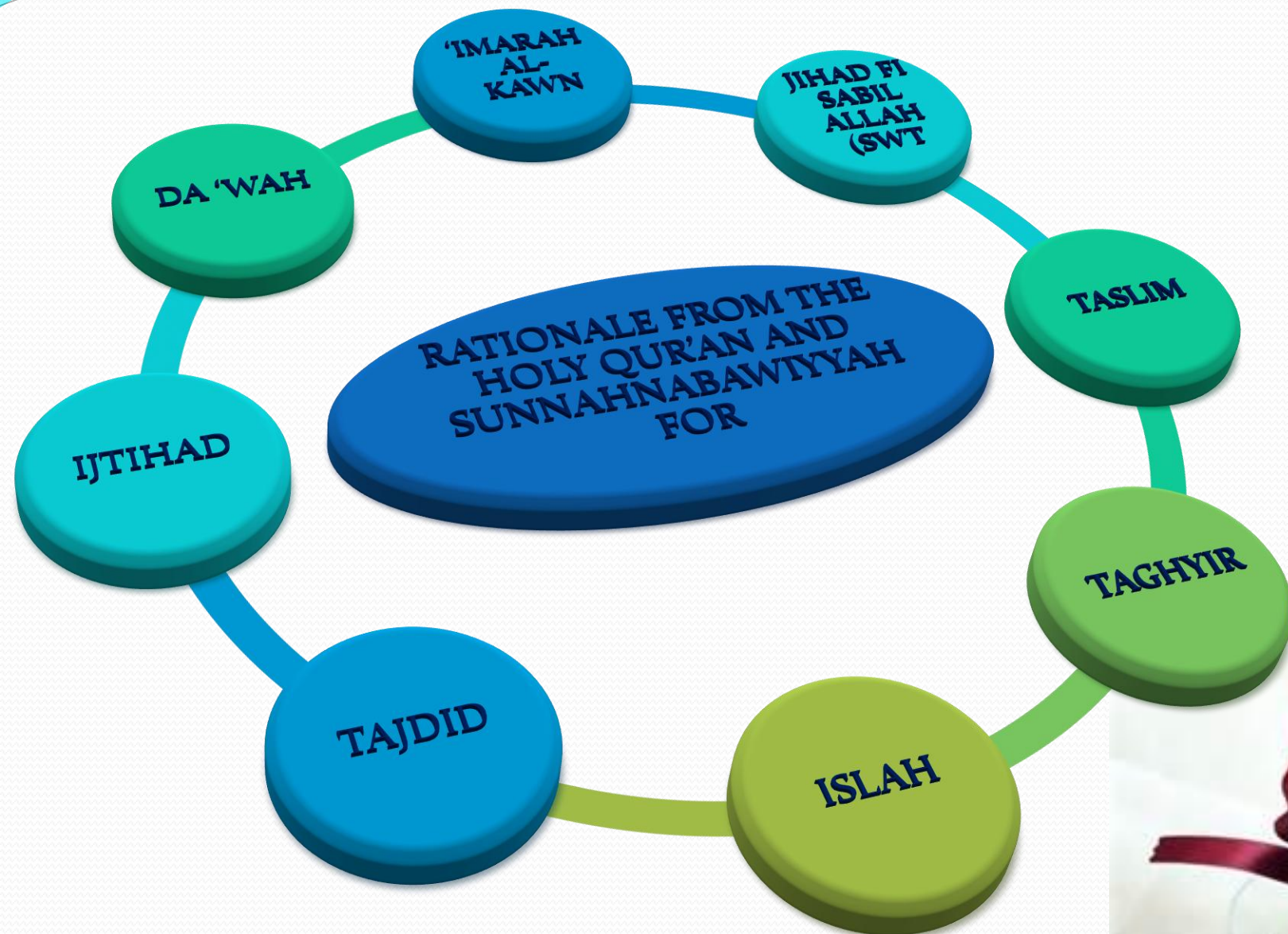
**Half-day Seminar on
Relevantization of Islamic
Revealed Knowledge
Diciplines,**

**organized by
Department of Usul-al-din
and Centris IIUM.**

05th April 2013

THE WORD **RELEVANTIZATION** IS ADOPTED
AS A CONVENIENT SINGLE TERM TO EMBRACE
THE FOLLOWING IMPERATIVES FOR REFORM OF
ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS DISCIPLINES:





IHYA' 'ULUM AL-DIN as a classical model and precedent. “You should also know that the source of the confusion of the blameworthy sciences with the sacred is the tampering with, and the changes in, the names of the praiseworthy sciences and the alterations introduced therein, in bad faith, so as to connote other than those which the righteous fathers and the first-century Muslims intended.



Consequently, five terms, namely jurisprudence (*fiqh*), the science of religion (*al- 'ilm*), theology (*tawhîd*), admonition (*tadhkir*), and philosophy (*hikmah*), all names of praiseworthy sciences, whose possessors have held the chief positions in the religious organisation, but which now have been altered so that they cannot denote something blameworthy ; yet people have become reluctant to condemn those who possess them because of the widespread practice of applying these names to all of them (alike)."

(Al-Ghazali, *The Book of Knowledge* , 1962, p. 80)



The rational basis *for*

IJTIHAD

TASHIH

**IHYA' 'ULUM
AL-DIN**

TAJDID

ISLAH

**'IADAT AL-
NAZAR**

BINA' JADID

Iqbal's *Reconstruction
of Islamic Thought* as an example.



RELEVANTISATION (which embraces the 6 aspects mentioned above) of revealed knowledge disciplines/concepts/methods/ideas/ systems/ is a parallel activity of **ISLAMISATION/ISLAMICISATION** of Contemporary Human Knowledge (IOCHK), and as a subset of IOCHK. The concept and process of **RELEVANTISATION** may also be applied to non-revealed knowledge disciplines, wherever necessary.



Included under this cluster of activity is the academic and intellectual effort of ***reexamination*** or ***reevaluation*** of classical or ancient Islamic works, treatises or manuscripts with the aim of highlighting their relevance, usefulness or otherwise, novelties or uniqueness.



cont.

In the division of Islamic revealed knowledge and heritage of KIRKHS, the methods of teaching, studying, assessment and student-teacher communication can also be modernized (*tahdith*), in the spirit of **RELEVANTISATION**, through e-learning and use of I.C.T.



THE KULLIYYAH'S POLICY

- The KIRKHS had agreed in 2008 to adopt

**INTEGRATION, ISLAMICISATION,
RELEVANTISATION, RESEARCH**
(2II and 2 RR)

as its niche and mission. However, the terms Islamisation/Islamicisation are not to be applied in the reform of IRK disciplines.



Therefore ***INTEGRATION*** of useful and beneficial ideas, methods of research, analysis, perspectives or theories from the natural sciences/applied sciences/social sciences/human sciences could also be undertaken in the departments of Islamic revealed knowledge (Usuluddin and Comparative Knowledge, Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh, Al-Qur'an and Sunnah, General Studies and Arabic Language and Literature) in the Kulliyyah.





CONTEMPORARY CIVILISATION BASED ON SECULAR MODERNITY AND AUTONOMY OF HUMAN REASON SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF SEVERE SYSTEMIC CRISES AND EVENTUAL COLLAPSE.

Some examples from Western scholars' writings:

- Immanuel Wallerstein . 1999 .*THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT: SOCIAL SCIENCE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.*
- Bernard Lewis : 2002 .*WHAT WENT WRONG ? : WESTERN IMPACT AND MIDDLE EASTERN RESPONSE.*
- Graham E. Fuller.2010 .*A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM.*
- Jane Jacobs.2004 .*DARK AGE AHEAD.*
- Christopher Hitchens.2007 .*GOD IS NOT GREAT.*



- Richard Dawkins.2006 ***.THE GOD DELUSION.***
- James Martin.2006 ***.THE MEANING OF THE 21ST CENTURY : A VITAL BLUEPRINT FOR ENSURING OUR FUTURE.***
- Frassminggi Kamasa.2012 ***.THE AGE OF DECEPTION: RIBA DALAM GLOBALISASI EKONOMI, POLITIK GLOBAL, DAN INDONESIA.***
- John L. Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin2011 ***.THE CHALLENGE OF PLURALISM IN 21ST CENTURY: ISLAMOPHOBIA .***
- Veronica Bennholdt-Thomsen, Nicholas Faraclas and Claudia Von Werlhof.2001 ***.THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE SUBSISTENCE AND WORLDWIDE RESISTANCE TO CORPORATE GLOBALIZATION.***



Cont...

- Alan Greenspan.2007 .***THE AGE OF TURBULENCE:ADVENTURES IN A NEW WORLD.***
- Joseph E .Stiglitz.2010 .***FREEFALL: AMERICA, FREE MARKETS, AND THE SINKING OF THE WORLD ECONOMY .***
- Jeffrey Sachs.2011 .***THE PRICE OF CIVILIZATION: REAWAKENING VIRTUE AND PROSPERITY AFTER THE ECONOMY FALL.***
- Noam Chomsky and Robert W. McChesney. 2011 .***PROFIT OVER PEOPLE: NEOLIBERALISM & GLOBAL ORDER.***
- Niall Ferguson.2012 .***THE GREAT DEGENERATION: HOW INSTITUTIONS DECAY AND ECONOMIES DIE.***



RELEVANTISATION of IRK DISCIPLINES : SOME GOOD INITIATIVES.

- **Dept of Fiqh and Usul al-Fiqh** –*International Conferences on the MAQASID al-SHARI'AH and promotion of Maqasidic Thinking and Writing and the inclusion of new jurisprudential issues related to fiqh al-mu'amalah, etc.*
- **Dept of Qur'an and Sunnah** –*International Conferences on Methodologies of Interpretation and inclusion of contemporary challenges*



- **Dept of Usuluddin and Comparative Religion**– *International Conferences on Contemporary Islamic Thought and inclusion of contemporary intellectual and ideological challenges in the curriculum*
- **Dept of General Studies** –*Revision of the syllabus on the Worldview of Islam to include the challenges of other worldviews*



Innovation and Creativity in Qatar

- The Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies in Hamad bin Khalifah University of Qatar includes the Center of Islamic Economics and Finance, the Center for the Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies, plus Master's program in Urban Design and Architecture in Islamic societies, and Master's program in Public Policy in Islam.



CONCLUSION:

Need for innovative, creative, hybrid, interdisciplinary courses in post-graduate programs, research and publication, besides the concern with the issue of Islamisation or Relevantisation – as a production of new knowledge, and solutions of new problems based on:



- Continuous collective IJTIHAD
- The integration of *AL-THABAT* and *al-TATAWWUR/AL-MUTAGHAYYIRAT*.
- The integration of *FIQH AL-NASS* and *FIQH AL-WAQI'*
- The integration of the study of *AYAT ALLAH AL-QUR'ANIYYAH and AYAT ALLAH AL-KAUNIYYAH, AYAT ALLAH AL-INSANIYYAH, AYAT ALLAH AL-IJTIMA'IYYAH, AYAT ALLAH AL-TARIKHIYYAH, AYAT ALLAH AL-HADHARIYYAH*





Allendale
Gardens



