PSYCHOLOGY FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE: A GUIDE TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

Editor
Noraini M. Noor

IIUM Press

Malik Badri

This paper is based on the author's summary of his current book "Out of the lizard's hole" that he wrote as a response to his earlier provocative book "Dilemma of Muslim Psychologists."

THE "WHY" OF THE ISLAMISATION OF WESTERN PSYCHOLOGY

Why do we need to Islamise modern Western psychology? When I gave my first public lecture on the Islamisation of psychology in the main auditorium of the University of Jordan in 1965, I was faced with a barrage of ridiculing questions wondering about the relationship between Islam and psychology. Some mocking questions and comments were: "Islam is a religion and psychology is a science." "Do you speak of Islamic physiology, fāsiq botany or kāfir physics? Then why talk about Islamic psychotherapy or secular psychology?" "Science struggled for many years to reach maturity and to rid itself from the captivity of philosophy and religion; do you want psychological sciences to backslide to ancient religiosity or to antiquated philosophy?"

Some of my friends in the Department of Psychology, which I headed at the time, confided to me with sincerity that if I continued to force Islam into my specialisation, I might eventually lose my respect as a scholar.