

EDITORIAL

The world today is in the throes of a moral crisis. Material progress, unaccompanied by moral uplift, has created more problems than it has solved. The result is that the forces of nature, which man has harnessed in his service, now threaten his very existence. As T. S. Eliot points out:

‘The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries,
Have brought us farther from God and nearer to the dust.’

The way out of this impasse is a new reformation, a twentieth century renaissance of man aiming at rediscovering the meaning of existence and giving birth to a new moral consciousness in the individual and the society. And in the formulation of this future lies the real role of Islam and its best exponent in the modern times, Iqbal.

Iqbal’s analysis of the human situation is candid and clear. He said: “Humanity needs three things today—a spiritual interpretation of the universe, spiritual emancipation of the individual, and basic principles of a universal import directing the evolution of human society on a spiritual basis...Believe me, Europe today is the greatest hindrance in the way of man’s ethical advancement. The Muslim, on the other hand, is in possession of those ultimate ideas on the basis of a revelation which, speaking from the inmost depths of life, internalizes its own apparent externality. With him the spiritual basis of life is a matter of conviction for which even the least enlightened man among us can easily lay down his life; and in view of the basic idea of Islam that there can be no further revelation binding on man, we ought to be spiritually one of the most emancipated peoples on earth. Let the Muslim of today appreciate his position, reconstruct his social life in the light of ultimate principles and evolve, out of the hitherto partially revealed purpose of Islam, that spiritual democracy which is the ultimate aim of Islam.”

This is the task which Iqbal himself tried to perform and this is what he beckoned his co-religionists to do. Iqbal Review is being produced by the Iqbal Academy, Pakistan, to carry on this task in a humble way. The journal will be devoted to research-studies on the life, thought and poetry of Iqbal and will publish articles which explain, elucidate and develop Iqbal’s ideas on politics, ethics, education, history, economics, philosophy, literature, art,

comparative religion, Islamics, etc., or which otherwise deal with subjects in which Iqbal was interested.

With this objective we present the journal. So help us God!