

## BOOK REVIEWS

M. Hadi Hussain, Tr., 'Umar Bin 'Abd al-'Azīz (by 'Abd al-Salām Nadvī. Lahore: Institue of Islamic Culture, 1978. Demy 8v0. xxiv, 200 pp. Rs. 25.00

The late Maulānā 'Abd al-Salām Nadvī (d. 1954) was an illustrious pupil of 'Allāmah Shiblī Nu'māni. He was one of the most renowned writers of the Dār al-Muṣannifin, Azamgarh. Like Shiblī, the writers of his school of thought have been compiling valuable books on Islamic culture and history. Maulānā 'Abd al-Salām Nadvī's one remarkable work is entitled *Sīrat 'Umar Bin 'Abdal-'Azīz* in Urdu which has been rendered into English and published.

Ḥaḍrat 'Umar b. 'Abd al-'Azīz was an Umayyad Caliph. Though his reign was a short-lived one (99-101/717-720), yet it was undoubtedly the most important era in the history of Islam after the days of the Pious Caliphs. A few historians of Islam have been mentioning him as the fifth (or sixth, if Ḥaḍrat Imām Ḥasan be stated as fifth) "Khalīfah-i Rāshid" (Rightly-Guided Caliph).

No doubt, this revolutionary Umayyad Caliph occupies an exalted position in Islamic history; after a lapse of about six decades, he was able to reapply the real teachings of Islam, as envisaged in the golden era of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (peace of Allah be upon him) and his four Successors. 'Umar b. 'Abd al-'Azīz has been widely mentioned in Islamic sources, but Maulāna 'Abd al-Salām Nadvī was perhaps the first to cornpile a complete book about his life and achievements. In his discussions, the late Maulānā has laid down the chief characteristics of the Umayyad caliphate, and in this way the unique position of the era of Ḥaḍrat 'Umar b. 'Abd al-'Azīz has been portrayed.

Mr M. Hadi Hussain is a well-known author and scholar-translator. He is a retired Civil Servant of Pakistan and has been a reputed non professional writer. The publishers of this translation Culture, have also published a number of his books and translations. He has enviable command over the English and Urdu languages. It is expected that *'Umar Bin 'Abdul 'Azīz* will prove to be a nice book of reference for readers at home and abroad.

The worthy translator's lengthy introduction (pp. v- xxii) has made the book's contents more explicit.

—(Dr) Muhammad Raiz