

CLOSING SPEECH

Dr. S. A. DURRANI

Thank you very much, Your Excellency, for your excellent speech. I am very encouraged that Shaharyar Muhammad Khan has taken so much trouble on a successive November day to come all the way from London to be with us. As His Excellency said, the Proceedings of that last Symposium, 'Iqbal and Mysticism' - as he had very kindly then proposed that we should prepare a compendium of it - is now in fact in press, and the Iqbal Review in Lahore will be bringing it out. It will be, it is supposed to be, the October 1988 issue. So far we haven't received it; but I can assure you that it is in press and should soon see the light of day.'

Similarly, as you, Sir, have said today [that] we should produce these Proceedings, I am very much hoping that these' will be preserved; and we shall indeed put some photographs [together]; and we have made some [tape-] recordings and also a video. So the beauty of the voice of Christopher Lamb, and the beauty of the portrait, will be preserved, and I'm very glad that these will be kept on a historical basis.

I was especially moved by the point you made, Sir, about these bridges between famous, important landmarks, or whatever the metaphor should be - that Pakistan has come about through the great works of these few people. And of these few people, the first we usually mention is Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, who was reviving the fallen nation of the Muslims in India in the 19th century. So, Sir Syed inspired Sir Thomas Arnold; and Sir Thomas Arnold, again, inspired Iqbal: and Iqbal in fact inspired Jinnah. He wrote to Mr Jinnah' and said: You are the man who should lead the Muslims of India to their goal. It's a very pertinent point that you made here, Sir.

Similarly, if I may just say one more word about people like Annemarie Schimmel. As you so rightly said, we should be proud of those great Orientalists, those great scholars of all nationalities and religions, who have contributed to the scholarship and tradition of our great continent, and our great religion, and the Islamic world in general. And, today, perhaps, [I should specially mention] Annemarie Schimmel. whom I had to privilege of meeting

only last Saturday,⁵ again, in Brussels. And I am very pleased on this occasion to announce that we have, in fact, founded the Iqbal Foundation Europe, and she is our first president (clapping) and this Foundation has been launched.⁶ I am always impressed by Professor Schimmel - she has written 50 books, and any human being who can write 50 books, I take my hat off to that person. And I am quite sure that she will one day be revered just as much [as Sir Thomas Arnold today]. And she in fact mentioned Christian Troll at Brussels, saying: "I consider him as my own son".⁷ So we have many such examples here today, of these close relationships of Islamic scholarship.

So, finally, I am very thankful to you, Sir, for taking the trouble to come. And to you, Your Worship, Lord Mayor of Rugby, Mr James Shera, to grace us with your presence. We are very proud of you, and I hope that you will keep doing good work and bring great credit both to your original homeland and to your present one. Similarly, I must thank once again Sir Thomas Arnold's family: Lawrence Barfield, his wife Marylane Barfield, Arnold Barfield and his daughter and grandson, and master [Sebastian]⁸ Barfield, and Abigail⁹ here, and the (at this moment, temporarily) missing fifth generation.

Also I am very thankful to the young schoolboy⁹ who recited Iqbal's prayer (° • / r

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all the members of the Iqbal Academy and its Management Committee, who have done a great deal of work to bring about a successful day today here. And I must not forget to mention the Pakistan Students' Society, of which the President, Mr Majeed, is sitting there. They have, in fact, been very helpful in making all the arrangements here in the Union, since we are in a way their guests, because this is the Students' Union (clapping)

With these words, your Excellency, I would like to draw the formal part of this meeting to a close, and to say that all of you are most welcome to have a cup of tea and some refreshments, which are being served in Committee Room 4. And there, indeed,

Dr Lawrence Barfield and Arnold Barfield have brought some _memorabilia, the paintings, the books, and portraits of Sir Thomas [for exhibition]. And may I mention that Mr Salimuddin Qureshi has arrived with a big bundle of some other rare books [of Arnold's] from the India Office

Library - because, as I said, Sir Thomas Arnold was, for seventeen years, the Assistant Librarian of the India Office Library. So we are very grateful to you, Sir,¹⁰ that you have come today and brought some more of these important books with you.

And with these words, I would like to thank all the audience for your very patient and exemplary attention and interest that you have maintained in today's proceedings.

Thank you very much indeed.

NOTES & REFERENCES

1. Held at the University of Birmingham on 7th November 1988 -Ed.

2. The Proceeding have now come out as a Special Issue of the Iqbal Review (Winter 1988, Volume 29, No.3, pp. 1-26), published by the Iqbal Academy Pakistan. -Ed.

3. I.e., Proceedings of Sir Thomas Arnold Day, -Ed.

4. Quaid-i-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan -Ed.

5. 12 November, 1988 -Ed.

6. The Foundation, launched through the vigorous efforts of Mr Toheed Ahmad, Cultural Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy, Brussels, has as its two Vice-Presidents: Professor R. Anciaux (Free University of Brussels) and Dr S.A. Durrani; and as its Secretary: Mr Shafiq Naz. -Ed.

7. Dr Christian Troll's father is the Rector of Bonn University, where Dr. Schimmel is a professor of religion. -Ed.

8. Dr Lawrence Barfield's children. -Ed.

9 Master Shaukat Fail of Moseley School, Birmingham. - Ed.

10. Mr Salimuddin Qureshi.