

ISLAMIC UNITY IN VIEW OF ALLAMA IQBAL

Seminar held on the Occasion of 123rd birth anniversary of Allama Iqbal

Dacca—Bangladesh

Prof. Sirajul Haque

A SEMINAR ENTITLED “ISLAMIC UNITY IN VIEW OF ALLAMA IQBAL” WAS HELD AT THE AUDITORIUM OF THE OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL COUNSELLOR OF IRAN, DHANMONDI YESTERDAY THE 1ST NOVEMBER 2000 AT 4 P.M. THE SEMINAR WAS ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY THE ALLAMA IQBAL RESEARCH ACADEMY AND OFFICE OF THE CULTURAL COUNSELLOR OF IRAN, DHAKA.

THE SEMINAR WAS HELD UNDER THE PRESIDENT SHIP OF DR. WAKIL AHMED, FORMER PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR AND PRESENTLY PROF. DEPT. OF BENGALI, DHAKA UNIVERSITY AND ATTENDED BY AMONG OTHERS MR. MOHAMMAD ABDUR RAUF, FORMER CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER & JUDGE OF THE BANGLADESH SUPREME COURT AS CHIEF GUEST, DR. A. N. M. RAIS UDDIN, PROF. DEPT. OF ISLAMIC STUDIES, DHAKA UNIVERSITY, MR. SHAHABODDIN DARAEI, CULTURAL COUNSELLOR OF IRAN AND PROF. SIRAJUL HAQUE, PRESIDENT, ALLAMA IQBAL RESEARCH ACADEMY AS SPECIAL GUESTS. POET ABDUL MUKIT CHAWDHARY A RENOWNED NAZRUL AND IQBAL RESEARCHER PRESENTED THE KEY NOTE PAPER IN THE SEMINAR AND MAULANA QARI ANISUR RAHMAN RECITED FROM THE HOLY QUR’AN.

DR. KULSOOM ABUL BASHAR, PROF DEPT. OF PERSIAN & URDU, DHAKA UNIVERSITY, MR. ZAHIR BISWAS A RENOWNED DRAMATIST AND MR. ABEDIN SAMADI RECITED FROM THE POEM OF ALLAMA IQBAL.

A LARGE NUMBER OF INTELLECTUALS, TEACHERS, POET & LITTERATEUR HAVE ATTENDED THE SEMINAR.

JUSTICE ABDUR RAUF SAID IN HIS SPEECH, THAT IQBAL WAS AN INSTITUTION HIMSELF. HE WAS NOT ONLY A PHILOSOPHER AND A GREAT POET RATHER HE WAS A GREAT MAN AND *MARD-I-MOMIN*. IN THE EYES OF IQBAL, ISLAM HAS CREATED RELATION BETWEEN ALLAH AND MEN, RELATION BETWEEN MUSLIM AND OTHER HUMAN BEINGS. ALLAH SAID THAT MY *RĒÁ* (SPIRIT) IS A MYSTERY AND MY CREATURE MAN ALSO IS MYSTERY. HE SAID THAT THE THEME OF ISLAM IS UNITY AND IQBAL WORKED FOR THAT. HE SAID THAT IQBAL WAS THE PIONEER TO UNITE THE HUMANITY. MOREOVER, HE WAS A HUMANIST. HE WROTE AND WORKED FOR THE ELEVATION OF CIVILIZATION AND UNITY. WE SHOULD ALSO GO AHEAD TO UPLIFT THE HUMANISM AS IQBAL TAUGHT US THROUGH HIS POEMS.

DR. PROF. WAKIL AHMED SAID THAT A GREAT POET IS NOT LIMITED WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF A PARTICULAR LAND OR NATION, RATHER HIS MESSAGE IS FOR THE ALL HUMANKIND. WE COULD REALIZE THAT IQBAL EXERCISED HIS MISSION AND THOUGHT FOR THE HUMANKIND. THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF MAN IN THE LIGHT OF ALLAMA IQBAL. ONE KIND IS RULING CLASS WHO ARE OPPRESSING OTHER PEOPLE, ANOTHER IS THE OPPRESSED CLASS. IQBAL TAUGHT AND WORKED THROUGH HIS POEM FOR THE OPPRESSED CLASS OF THE WORLD. HE WAS A *MARD-I-MOMIN* AND WITH THE LIGHT OF *IMĀN* (FAITH) HE TRIED TO UPRaise THE HUMANITY. HE ALSO ADVISED TO ABANDON THE WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND CULTURE BECAUSE IT WAS FULLY BASED ON ATHEISM AND DISBELIEF IN GOD. HE SAID THAT THERE IS GREAT SIMILARITY BETWEEN QAZI NAZRUL ISLAM AND IQBAL, I.E. IN THOUGHT AND IN IDEAS WHICH IS ISLAMIC IDEALISM. IN MY EYES HE WAS A GREAT POET, HE ADDED.

DR. A. N. M. RAIS UDDIN SAID, THAT IQBAL TAUGHT US TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW HUMANITY. IQBAL TOLD US TO BE REALLY HUMAN AND *INSĀN-I-KĀMIL*. IQBAL ALSO TOLD US TO BE A GOOD MUSLIM BECAUSE A REAL MUSLIM WILL NOT BOW DOWN TO ANY ONE EXCEPT ALLAH. AS WE HAVE DEVIATED FROM THE REAL ISLAM, SO WE HAVE LOST MANY THINGS INCLUDING OUR MANY LANDS, HE ADDED BY QUOTING IQBAL'S VERSES. ALLAMA IQBAL DID NOT POSSESS PAROCHIALISM AND NARROWNESS, HE WAS VERY BROAD-MINDED POET AND HE WROTE AND STRUGGLED FOR THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. IQBAL PREACHED FOR UNITY AND LOVE OF HUMAN KIND.

MR. SHAHABUDDIN DARAEI SAID, THAT MESSAGE OF IQBAL'S WAS FOR ALL HUMANITY OF THE WORLD. HE SAID THAT IQBAL MESSAGE WAS FOR LOVE TOWARDS HUMANITY. HE SAID IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE ON HIS PART OR BY ANY ONE TO FOCUS ALLAMA IQBAL IN DETAIL IN THIS SEMINAR, WHO TRIED THROUGH OUT HIS LIFE TO LIBERATE THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IN GENERAL AND PARTICULARLY PEOPLE OF THE SUBCONTINENT THROUGH HIS POEMS AND WORKS. HE (IQBAL) CONDEMNED THE IMPERIALISM OF THE WEST AND HE SAID THAT THE IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONY OF THE WEST MUST BE RUINED WHICH CAME IN FACT THOUGH AFTER HIS DEATH.

PROF SIRAJUL HAQUE HIGHLIGHTED IQBAL AS A GREAT POET OF ALL THE TIMES. HE SAID THAT HIS POEMS INSPIRED NOT ONLY MUSLIM BUT ALSO ALL THE DOWNTRODDEN AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. AS A POET-PHILOSOPHER AND VASTLY EDUCATED MAN HE WAS PEERLESS. IN COURSE OF HIS SPEECH HE QUOTED THE FOLLOWING VERSE OF IRANIAN POET, MALIK AL-SHU'AR« BAH«R

THIS ERA IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR IQBAL

HE WAS ALONE (IN HIS FIELD)

BUT SURPASSED TENS OF THOUSANDS.

PROF HAQUE ALSO QUOTED THE FOLLOWING VERSE OF EGYPTIAN POET AÁMED SHAWQI AND SAID THAT IQBAL IS STILL ALIVE.

HUMAN BEINGS ARE OF TWO KINDS,

THOSE WHO ARE DEAD IN LIFE AND OTHERS

WHO ARE ALIVE IN THEIR GRAVES

MR. ABDUL MUKIT CHAWDHRY IN HIS ARTICLE BY QUOTING FROM THE ARTICLE OF KAZI ABDUL WADUD, PUBLISHED IN *CALCUTTA REVIEW*, AS SAYING 'OF THE MODERN MUSLIM THINKERS, HE IS INDEBTED MOST TO JAM«L-UD-DÂN AL-AFGH«NÁ, WHO FLOURISHED IN THE SECOND HALF OF

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND TRIED TO DRIVE HOME INTO THE FALLEN MUSLIM WORLD THE MESSAGE OF SCIENTIFIC OUTLOOK AND POLITICAL RESURGENCE.²