

روزنامہ پاکستان ٹائمز کی ۲۸ ستمبر ۱۹۸۳ء کی اشاعت میں
انجمن خدام القرآن اور اس کے موصیین کے بارے میں شائع ہونے والے تنقیدی والرائی خط کا عکس

An echo of Azad

This has reference to Dr. Absar Ahmad's explanatory letter (*Dr. Israr's new course*, Sept. 18). At the outset, let me admit that I have absolutely no knowledge of Dr. Israr Ahmad's other course or courses which he has followed or failed to follow, or wanted his followers to follow or not to follow.

Dr. Israr Ahmad's new course as retailed by Brother Absar is as old as the Greek civilisation itself, if not older: integration of science and technology with religion. Further, at their Quran Academy, they, like the Mormons of Utah (U.S.), are building bridges (a metaphor) to bridge "this gap, and integrate the secular and the religious". Bridges have a notorious fate of being passed over and left behind. The aim of amalgamation, like takeover bids by multinationals, is laudable.

The only thing new about this new course is the inspiration which comes from the Mormons of Utah in America. Further, not Dr. Israr but Brother Absar paid them a personal visit. (Sorry about *paid* but you know what I mean).

Of this philosophy of amalgamation or integration, Dr. Israr Ahmad himself is a dazzling example. He is a Doctor of Medicine who practises as a Doctor of Divinity. His avocation has become his vocation. This is his charismatic trump card with the ordinary people. According to Maulana Ameen

Ahsan Islahi, Dr. Israr Ahmad has some doubtful grooming but no grounding at all in Divinity. Such a half-baked mix bodes no good for Islam. Those who stem from Allama Iqbal's Revivalism and Reformism forget that he never in his life set up a shop, whereas they immediately set up a shopping plaza of their own doing harm to Islam and doing good to themselves! The landscape is littered with such shopping plazas.

No follower and no sympathiser, I recently met Dr. Israr Ahmad face to face in a small dinner-and-discussion party—not in mine but arranged in his honour. The paranoid streak in him made me afraid, not of him but for him. A four-page pamphlet was distributed, a sort of Objectives Revolution of his party. There was a boxed statement at the bottom of the last page: "As a party we are an echo of Abul Kalam Azad's Al-Huda and Al-Bilagh, etc."

The structure of his party organisation: From the previous Bhutto regime, Dr. Israr Ahmad has borrowed the seminal idea of Talented Cousin, and has quietly planted Brother Absar as Director of the Academy. Also something from across the borders: Dr. Israr Ahmad, like Mrs. Indira Gandhi (nee Nehru), is grooming, it is bruited abroad, his son to take over the throne when the time comes for his sun to set.—SHUAIB BIN HASAN, Lahore Cantt.

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