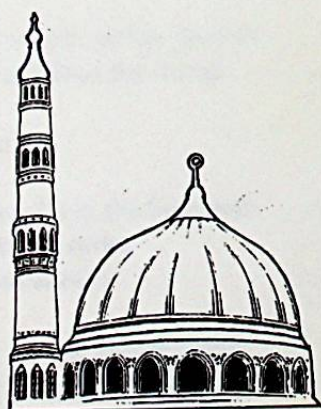


MUSLIMS OF SRI LANKA

Avenues to Antiquity



Dr. M.A.M. Shukri

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ABOUT THE EDITOR

Dr. M. A. M. Shukri, currently the Director of the Jamiah Naleemiah, Beruwela, Sri Lanka, entered the University of Ceylon, from the premier Muslim Institution — Zahira College, Colombo. Reading for a special course of studies in Arabic, he obtained a First Class Honours in the subject and was awarded the Commonwealth Scholarship — 1973, to pursue his post-graduate studies at the University of Edinburgh (U. K.). At this Institution, he was fortunate to have been among the alumni of one of the distinguished Islamologists, Prof. W. Montgomery Watt. Shukri was conferred the Doctorate in Philosophy, on his penetrative study of 'Qūt al-Qulūb', an esoteric mystical Risala of Abu Talib al-Makki of the 4th century A. H.

He has lectured at the Universities of Peradeniya and Kelaniya and was the Head of the Department of Arabic at the latter. Despite the administrative work entailed by his present position as Director of the Institute of Jamiah Naleemiah, his persistent research in Arabic, Quranic exegesis and the Cultural History of Islam have yielded several treatises of merit, most of which have been either published or presented at many International gatherings of the Muslim World. Present work was edited by him in his capacity as Director of Naleemiah Institute of Islamic Research. He edited some of the Speeches of Moulana Abdul Hasan Ali Nadwi. Further, he is the author of (i) Islam and Education (English) 1979; (ii) Al-Quran — Its Doctrine and Way of Life (Tamil) 1981; (iii) Sufis in Defence of The Faith (Tamil) 1984.

He was a Member of the Educational Reform Committee appointed by the Government of Sri Lanka; Member of the Sri Lanka National Library Services Board; was a Member of the Literary Panel of the Sri Lanka Sahitya Mandalaya; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Muslim Scholarship Fund; and this year (1985) was appointed Director General of the Islamic Secretariat. He is also a member of the Sri Lanka National Commission for Unesco. Dr. Shukri also finds the time to render his services to the Community, as the Executive President of The Muslim Renaissance Movement — which is exclusively directed towards the educational regeneration of the Muslims of this country by providing tuition through a network of centres, offering guidance and funding deserving scholars at the pre-University and University levels.