



INSTITUTE OF OBJECTIVE STUDIES, NEW DELHI
in collaboration with
**ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY,
KASHMIR**



TWO-DAY OFFLINE/ONLINE CONFERENCE
ON
**INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING AND
THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW)**

On August 24-25, 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The life of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is recorded with all its details and its various manifestations are so much preserved that scholars like Montgomery Watt says that no other personality is as much known historically to us than the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

However, the role of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) with regard to other religious denominations is not very well known. It was the Prophet (SAW) who laid down foundation of the mutual cooperation in the form of *Hilf al-Fadul* in Makkah and settled the dispute among the Meccan about placing the Black stone at its proper place as the Ka'aba was damaged by a flood. After receiving divine message in order to reach out to the people of Makkah quoting his relationship with Abraham and his progeny because the Meccans were considering Abraham and his son Ismail as the builders of Ka'aba. Moreover, when the persecution in Makkah was intolerable for the Muslims the Prophet ordered his companions to go to Abyssinia (*Habush*) where the Christian king Negus (*Najashi*) was the ruler in this way he impressed upon his followers that we can rely upon the Christians and seek their assistance and protection from the persecution. Much before that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was told by *Warqa bin Nofl* that the same naumus (*Jibrael*) has revealed the first ever revelation to the Prophet as earlier Moses has received.

Thus, even in the Makkah the Prophet (SAW) again alluded towards the understanding of Abrahamic faith and in relationship with all the predecessor Prophets. In the Makkah chapters of the Quran like Al-Kahf and Bani Israel the Prophet (SAW) was given the rare information about the Christian, Jewish personages, Prophets and sacred personalities like Ashab-ul-Kahf, Zulqarnain, Maryam, Lout, Moses, Jesus and scores others which also shows the message of the Prophet was inclusive and not exclusive. In Medina the Prophet (SAW) did make a concerted effort to reach out to Jews and other communities there with sympathetic understanding and the result was shown in form of *Misaaq i Madinah* which

was the first written constitution of the world and which guarantees the religious freedom to all the parties including Jews and also indicates that Islam acknowledges the basic principles of brotherhood and social and Political collaboration with other communities. This is also a wonderful example of inter religious and inter community understanding. There are many other episodes in the sacred life and career of the prophet (SAW) that He (SAW) is seen entertaining the delegations of the Christians of Najran and is engaged with many Jewish scholars and inviting them to the common core of all the divine revelations.

In this way, if we see Islamophobic malicious campaign launched by unscrupulous elements in the East and the West trying to present and project the Prophet (SAW) as preacher of exclusive religion, it seems very unfortunate and unjustified. The malicious approach of some orientalist and the highly objectionable theories like clash of civilization have perpetuated this agenda and media advocacy resulting in very unfortunate episodes of Muslims victimisation. However there have been non-Muslim western and eastern Scholars who have acknowledged the inclusive nature of Islam and universal message in the writings of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and have presented the Prophet (SAW) in sympathetic and realistic manner.

In light of the above details, the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, in collaboration with Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir, is going to organise a two-day offline/online Conference on “Inter-Religious Understanding and the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) on August 24-25, 2022 at Awantipora, Kashmir.

This conference will address all these issues and will take stock of the trends and issues which pertain to the Prophetic understanding of other religions and will pave the way for a better appreciation of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) who has been described by the Quran as the mercy for all the worlds and benefactor of humanity.

Themes for Deliberations

The themes suggested for writing papers are given below:

1. The Prophet (SAW) before his prophethood.
2. *Warqa-ibn-Naufal* and his prophecy about the Prophet (SAW).
3. The Quran and mention of other religions and Prophets.
4. Abrahamic faiths and the Prophet (SAW).
5. *Hilf al-Fadul* and the role of the Prophet (SAW).
6. *Misaaq-e-Madinah* and its importance.
7. Treaty of Hudaibiyah and reconciliatory approach of the Prophet (SAW).
8. Different delegations of the Ahle-Kitab and the Prophet.
9. The Jewish reverts to Islam and their confessions.
10. Christians reverts to Islam and their endorsements.
11. The letter of the prophet to Christian and Zorstanian Kings.
12. The delegation of Najran.
13. The invitation of the Prophet towards *Kalimat u Siva* (common code).

14. The theories of Orientalists and their approach to Seerah.
15. Muslim responses to the western scholarship of the Prophet (SAW).
16. Indian scholars and the Prophet (SAW).
17. Prophecies about the Prophet (SAW) in the Indian religions.
18. Non-Muslim poets and the Prophet (SAW)
19. Mention of the Prophet (SAW) in modern Indian scholarship.
20. Any other theme relevant to the Conference.

Please note the important deadlines below and send us your abstracts on the link given below not exceeding 300 words. After receiving the confirmation email from the Institute regarding selected abstract, you are requested to send us the full paper, which should be around 5000-6000 words.

Important Deadlines:

Last date for receipt of abstracts (in PDF& doc file)
Notification of selected abstracts through email
Last date of receipt of full paper (in PDF and doc. file)
Language

August 5, 2022
August 8, 2022
August 20, 2022
English

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Register & Submit abstracts at: <https://forms.gle/aUBeckD5F355sjUG7>

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