



Institute Of Objective Studies, New Delhi (India)

Two-day Online International Conference

On

“The Life and Contributions of Taha Jabir al-Alwani”

CONCEPT NOTE

Dr. Taha Jabir al-Alwani was a distinguished Islamic scholar and ideologue, renowned for his significant contributions to Islamic jurisprudence, particularly in the context of Muslims living as minorities. He served as a Professor of *Fiqh* and *Usul al-Fiqh* at Imam Muhammad bin Saud University in Riyadh and was a founding member of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT).

Born in Fallujah, Iraq on May 12, 1935, Dr. Al-Alwani, began studying at a very young age and gradually developed his expertise as a jurist and intellectual in Egypt, where he studied at Al-Azhar University from 1953 to 1973. He earned his B.A. in 1959, followed by a master's degree in 1968, and a doctorate in 1973 in *Usul al-Fiqh* from the College of Shariah and Law. His doctoral work focused on the seminal Islamic legal theory text, "*Al-Mahsul min Ilm Usul*" by Fakhr al-Din al-Razi.

In 1975, Dr. Al-Alwani moved to Saudi Arabia to teach at Muhammad bin Saud University. During this period, he also served as a legal counselor for the Saudi Ministry of Interior and taught at the Police Institute in Riyadh. Although his primary focus was teaching, he published his doctoral thesis and other works, including an edited version of "*Al-Mahsul fi Ilm al-Usul*" and several articles.

In 1977, Dr. Al-Alwani joined efforts to establish the IIIT in Virginia, USA, an institute dedicated to providing a platform for Muslim scholars in the humanities and social sciences. He moved to the United States in 1984, where he founded the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (GSISS) in Leesburg, VA, and served as its president. He also held the Imam Al-Shafi'i Chair in Islamic Legal Theory and was founding head of the Islamic Fiqh Council of North America and founding editor-in-chief of the *Islamiyat al-Marifah* journal. He served the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) as a founding member of its Board of Trustees and as its president between 1988 and 1996.

Dr. Al-Alwani was deeply involved in the development of the theory of Islamization of knowledge, advocating for a methodological approach to integrating religious and social sciences. His ideas, though controversial, were influential in Muslim intellectual circles. He published extensively during his tenure at IIIT, contributing significantly to the discourse on Islamic law and its social implications.

He was a member of the Fiqh Academy in Jeddah, the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), and the Organization of Islamic Conference, and served as president of the Islamic Fiqh Council in North America. His notable works include "Ethics of Disagreement in Islam", "The Rights of the Accused in Islam", "Reviving The Balance The Authority of the Quran and the Status of the Sunnah", "Towards a Fiqh for Minorities: Some Basic Reflections," and "The Qur'an and the Sunnah: The Time-Space Factor."

Some of his significant books in Arabic are mentioned below:

1. ادب الاختلاف فى الاسلام
2. تحقيق و تدوين المحصول فى علم اصول الفقه
3. الازمة الفكرية المعاصرة
4. الامام فخرالدين الرازى و مصنفاته
5. الجمع بين القرائتين: قراءة الوحى و قراءة الكون
6. الخصوصية و العالمية فى الفكر المعاصر
7. الوحدة البنائية للقرآن المجيد
8. لاكره فى الدين: اشكالية الردة والمرتدين من صدر الاسلام الى اليوم
9. لسان القرآن و مستقبل الامة القطب
10. مقاصد الشريعة
11. مقدمة فى اسلامية المعرفة

Dr. Al -Alwani was not only a towering intellect but also a cherished friend, devoted father, loving husband, and inspiring teacher, leaving a profound emptiness in the hearts of many. He passed away on March 4, 2016.

The proposed two-day international conference aims to explore and celebrate the life and contributions of Dr. Taha Jabir al Alwani, a prominent Islamic scholar known for his profound impact on contemporary Islamic thought. His work in the fields of Islamic jurisprudence, interfaith dialogue, and the integration of traditional Islamic scholarship with modern challenges has left a lasting legacy. This conference seeks to bring together scholars, students, and practitioners from around the world to engage in a comprehensive examination of his contributions.

Objectives:

1. To Explore Al Alwani's Intellectual Legacy:

- Analyze his contributions to Islamic jurisprudence and thought.
- Discuss his role in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding.
- Examine his efforts in integrating traditional Islamic scholarship with contemporary issues.

2. A deeper understanding of Taha Jabir al Alwani's contributions to Islamic thought

- Examining his approach to restoring the balance relationship between the Quran and the Sunnah
- Renewal of Islamic Thought

3. To Foster Scholarly Dialogue:

- Provide a platform for scholars to present research related to Al Alwani's work.
- Encourage discussions on the relevance of his ideas in today's world.

3. To Inspire Future Research:

- Identify areas for future research inspired by Al Alwani's contributions.
- Encourage young scholars to engage with his work and its applications.

Conclusion:

This conference will serve as a significant step in recognizing and building upon the intellectual legacy of Taha Jabir al Alwani. By bringing together diverse perspectives and fostering meaningful dialogue, the event aims to inspire continued exploration and application of his ideas in addressing contemporary challenges facing the Muslim world and beyond.

The following shall be the major themes of deliberations in the conference:

1. Taha Jabir al Alwani –his early life, family and education, personal attachment to the Quran and the Sunnah
2. Taha Jabir al Alwani: A Study of his views on ethics of disagreement in Islam
3. The formation of International Institute of Islamic Thought and Taha Jabir al Alwani
4. Taha Jabir al Alwani: Interfaith Dialogue and Pluralism; his efforts in promoting dialogue between different faith communities.
5. Taha Jabir al-Alwani: Issues on human rights
6. Taha Jabir al-Alwani: Issues in contemporary Islamic political thought
7. Taha Jabir al-Alwani on integration of knowledge; his vision for integrating traditional Islamic education with modern sciences.
8. Taha Jabir al-Alwani: Contemporary challenges and Islamic thought; modern challenges through the lens of Al Alwani's scholarship.
9. Taha Jabir al-Alwani : Islamic Jurisprudence and Reform: His approach to ijtihad (independent reasoning) and its implications for modern Islamic law; Source Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence; His contributions to the understanding and application of maqasid al-shariah (objectives of Islamic law) and a fiqh for minorities
10. Taha Jabir al-Alwani's approach towards the time- space factor in understanding the Quran and the Sunnah
11. Taha Jabir al-Alwani: Apostasy in Islam an Analytical Study

In order to benefit from the multidimensional thoughts and glorious services of Dr. Taha Jabir al-Alwani and his widely recognized intellectual legacy and to take it forward, it is vitally important to explore the possibilities of examining them. In view of this, the Institute of Objective Studies in collaboration with AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia, Universitas Ibn Khaldun Bogor, Indonesia and International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah has decided to organize a two-day online international conference on the topic, **“The Life and Contributions of Taha Jabir al-Alwani”** at New Delhi on **December 20-21, 2025 via Zoom.**

Important Dates:

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| - Last date of submitting abstracts between 700-1000 words
(In doc file and pdf): | October 25, 2025 |
| - Information regarding acceptance of the abstract: | October 30, 2025 |
| - Last date of submitting full paper (in doc file and pdf) | December 10, 2025 |

Language:

The language for deliberation in the conference will be English

Registration is free:

For registration and abstract submission, please click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/MX4GDwSVFdAPxE2u6>

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