

Book Review – Islam And Environment

Wasif Ali

Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad

Email: wasifali@hotmail.com

Abstract

The book “Islam and Environment” is a set of two volumes authored by Engineer Colonel Mumtaz Hussain (R) and published by “The Environ Publications, Lahore.” Volume-I of the book consists of 645 pages while volume II consists of 480 pages. Volume-I of the book defines physical and biological environments. Volume II includes the social, economic, cultural, corporate and political environment along with the intertwined challenges humanity is confronting. The book contains references, a bibliography and recommendations also. The conclusion of this review indicates that the book would remind the readers of the principles and practices of environment administration encompassed in the Holy Book and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in the backdrop of human responsibility towards the environment.

Keywords: Islam, environment, Quran, Colonel Mumtaz Hussain.

Introduction:

The book “Islam and Environment” is a set of two volumes authored by Engineer Colonel Mumtaz Hussain (R) and published by “The Environ Publications, Lahore.” The author is Editor in Chief of “Environ Monitor” which is a leading journal in Pakistan. The author’s main interests are to promote sustainable development among governmental and non-governmental agencies and circles. He is presently settled in the UK.

Review:

Volume-I of the book consists of 645 pages while volume II consists of 480 pages. Volume-I of the book defines physical and biological environments. In its composition of 10 chapters, the author has discussed in detail the concept of environment, the solar system, biodiversity, aquatic potential, resource utilization, cleanliness, hygiene and health, food management, disasters, climate change, warfare and divine religions concerning the environment. The book through Quranic verses and Ahadith explains how Islam as a religion and a body of knowledge has provided its followers with a comprehensive system of ethics as well as successful institutions to manage the environment wisely and equitably. Further, all the key points related to the physical and biological environment have been scientifically defined and discussed which demonstrates a concern for the protection of natural resources and their equitable availability to all. The description of Quranic verses and sayings of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) complement these scientific definitions stating the rules and instructions.

Volume II includes the social, economic, cultural, corporate and political environment along with the intertwined challenges humanity is confronting. Like Volume-I, Volume II also contains scientific and engineering explanations that have been provided for better comprehension of the socio, economic, cultural and political concerns. The volume contains

sufficient literature review for the convenience of the general readership. The book contains references, a bibliography and recommendations also.

The book however contains errors. In this regards the following are observed:

- i. Errors of diacritical marks are found in some verses of the Holy Quran; some of them are as under:

S No.	Page No, Volume	Errors	Corrections
1.	Chapter 3 of Volume-1 at Page No 223	وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً مُبْرَكًا فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ جِبْتٍ وَخَبَّ الْأَخْضِيدُ	وَنَزَّلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً مُبْرَكًا فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ جِبْتٍ وَخَبَّ الْأَخْضِيدُ
2.	Chapter 5 of Volume-1 at Page No 356	وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا	وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفَضُّوا إِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوكَ قَائِمًا
3.	Chapter 5 of Volume-1 at Page No 356	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ الْهَيْكُمُ التَّكَاثُرُ	بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ الْهَيْكُمُ التَّكَاثُرُ
4.	Chapter 5 of Volume-1 at Page No 358	وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقِصَاصِ حَيَوةٌ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ	وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقِصَاصِ حَيَوةٌ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ
5.	Chapter 5 of Volume-1 at Page No 391	الْخَبِيثَاتُ لِلْخَبِيثِينَ وَالْخَبِيثُونَ لِلْخَبِيثَاتِ ۖ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ لِلطَّيِّبِينَ وَالطَّيِّبُونَ لِلطَّيِّبَاتِ	الْخَبِيثَاتُ لِلْخَبِيثِينَ وَالْخَبِيثُونَ لِلْخَبِيثَاتِ ۖ وَالطَّيِّبَاتُ لِلطَّيِّبِينَ وَالطَّيِّبُونَ لِلطَّيِّبَاتِ
6.	Chapter 6 of Volume-1 at Page No 479	كُلُوا مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ	كُلُوا مِنْ طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ
7.	Chapter 8 of Volume-1 at Page No 548	يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِيَسْتَأْذِنَكُمْ الَّذِينَ مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَبْلُغُوا الْحُلُمَ مِنْكُمْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ صَلَاةِ الْفَجْرِ وَحِينَ تَضَعُونَ ثِيَابَكُمْ مِنَ الظَّهِيرَةِ وَمِنْ بَعْدِ صَلَاةِ الْعِشَاءِ ثَلَاثُ عَوْرَاتٍ لَكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ مِنْكُمْ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ	يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِيَسْتَأْذِنَكُمْ الَّذِينَ مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ لَمْ يَبْلُغُوا الْحُلُمَ مِنْكُمْ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ مِنْ قَبْلِ صَلَاةِ الْفَجْرِ وَحِينَ تَضَعُونَ ثِيَابَكُمْ مِنَ الظَّهِيرَةِ وَمِنْ بَعْدِ صَلَاةِ الْعِشَاءِ ثَلَاثُ عَوْرَاتٍ لَكُمْ لَيْسَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَا عَلَيْهِمْ جُنَاحٌ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ مِنْكُمْ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ وَاللَّهُ عَلِيمٌ حَكِيمٌ

- ii. The text of Hadiths is illegible in some places (i.e. in Chapter 6 of Volume-1 on pages no 434,435, 439, 440, 441, and 443 in Chapter 7 of Volume-1 on page no 498 etc).

Conclusion:

The global environment is facing the worst-ever threats, especially in developing countries like Pakistan, resulting in colossal damage to nature, natural resources and infrastructure. This book (Vol-I & Vol-II) would remind the readers of the principles and practices of environment administration encompassed in the Holy Book and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), in the backdrop of human responsibility towards the environment.

Recommendations:

Based on the review and conclusion, following is recommended:

- i. The author may be contacted for rectification of the aforementioned observations in the next edition of the book after thorough proofreading of the verses and Hadiths.
- ii. The book after requisite corrections may be distributed to PN central libraries to highlight towering dimensions of conscience and morality among PN personnel for the sacred cause of ecological care.

References

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