

CITATION FOR THE HONORARY DIGREE
OF DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC ORATION

Dr. Leong Yin Ching – Malaya University, Koala lampur

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



Citation for the Honorary Graduan

Delivered by the Public Orator Dr. Leong Yin Ching

The achievements of Khurshid Ahmad suggest to us that he is no ordinary man. To most of us is given on skill but Khurshid Ahmad possesses many. These are clearly demonstrated in his work and writings on Islamic education, law and religion, economics and politics. In Khurshid Ahmad, we see a glimpse of a man of the Renaissance for he has distinguished himself not only as an educationist but also a lawyer, economist, politician and administrator.

Khurshid Ahmad was born on 23rd March, 1932 in Delhi. He completed his postgraduate studies at the Karachi University and was awarded the MA (Economics), MA (Islamic Studies) and the LLB.

In the academic sphere, Khurshid Ahmad began his career as a teacher of economics at Urdu College, Karachi and the Department of Economics, Karachi University, International recognition of his academic excellence was shown when he was appointed a research scholar at the University of Leicester in England between 1969 and 1972, a visiting professor to a number of universities in Europe and the Middle-East and a member of the Academic Advisory Board, Institute of Comparative Political and Economic Systems, Georgetown University, Washington. These achievements were crowned by his appointment as Adviser and Trustee to Islamabad's Islamic University and Economic Adviser to the King Abdul Aziz University at Jeddah.

The writing skills of Khurshid Ahmad made themselves evident as early as the 1950s when, as an undergraduate, he became the editor of the *Students Voice*. This interest in editorial work was further pursued with the publication of *The New Era* and *The Voice of Islam* in Karachi, *Iqbal Review* and *Charaah-e-Rah*.

In the wake of Islamic renaissance, Khurshid Ahmad delivered to the Ummat what is sorely needed in today's world: a message of the pervasiveness that is Islam. Through such writings as *Islam; Its Meanings and Messages*, *The Quran: Basic Teachings* and *The Religion of Islam*, and through outstanding translation of many Islamic works such as those of Mawlana Mawdudi, he has emphasised and disseminated the viewpoint of Islam as a complete way of life. Islam is woven into the complete fabric of human life: the private and public, economic and political, social and cultural, moral, legal and judicial. Khurshid Ahmad has lighted many a candle to shed light and dispel darkness in reestablishing the Islamic ideology in these decades when moral and spiritual decay has set in the wake of materialism.

Khurshid Ahmad was not only a man of vision but also a man of action. No. challenges were too great for him in the effort to transform dreams into reality, wedding idealism with realism. This is demonstrated in his strife, together with other Muslim economists, to develop Islamic economics as an approach to reconstruct Muslim economy and society which will be free from exploitation of man by man, and where the well-being of each is tied to the well-being of all. An initial attempt but nevertheless a path-breaking one was made with the realisation of the First International Conference on Islamic Economics at the King Abdul Aziz University at Jeddah in 1976. From the conference, the idea of a permanent International Centre for Research in Islamic Economics has emerged. Today, Islamic economics is being taught at a number of universities in the Muslim world, including the University of Malaya beginning this academic session 1982/83.

Apart from academic responsibilities, Khurshid Ahmad was to prove himself equally adept and effective in administrative tasks. He was the Director of the Islamic Research Academy in Karachi from 1960 to 1968. Director-General of the Islamic Foundation at Leicester in England between

1973 and 1978, and presently, the Chairman of both the Institute of Policy Studies in Islamabad and the Islamic Foundation at Leicester in England.

In the political arena, Khurshid Ahmad served as a Federal Minister in the government of Pakistan and was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee from August 1978 to April 1979. Thus he was instrumental in the formulation of projects under Pakistan's Fifth Five-Year Plan.

We have seen in Khurshid Ahmad a distinguished educator in more disciplines than one. In serving his fellowmen and God, he has shown professional honesty, intellectual openness and sincere humility. It is for these very qualities and his contributions toward the dissemination of knowledge in Islamic economics, and his efforts in encouraging research through Islamic foundations that we have gathered here to honour him publicly.

Tun Pro-Chancellor, I invite you to confer on Khurshid Ahmad the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education.

Dikeluarkan oleh:

Bahagian Perhubungan Awam, Universiti Balaya, Kuala Lumpur 22-11.

Khamis, 17hb June 1982

PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD