



Photo by Erich Boekeheide

Ismail R. al Faruqi hopes Islam and Christianity "will lose no time by seeking to subvert each other."

Scholar sees Christianity, Islam as sisters of origin

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

A Muslim view of the differences between Christianity and Islam was expressed Wednesday evening by a visiting Islamic scholar.

Ismail R. al Faruqi, adjunct professor of Religion and Art at Temple University, spoke on "Islam and Christianity" as the second of the three-part lecture series "Dialogue With Islam: Its Nature, Hopes, and Problems." The series is sponsored by the religious studies department.

While al Faruqi described a number of differences between the world's two largest religions, he concluded his lecture by describing them as "sisters" with a common origin. He also reminded the audience Islam regards Jesus as a prophet and that the Koran regards Christianity as the religion "closest" to Islam.

"My hope is that the forces of Christianity and the forces of Islam will lose no time by seeking to subvert each other or fight each other," al Faruqi said. "On the contrary, there is a great job to be done in the world, and I hope they will be found worthy of the trust Allah has placed on their shoulders."

Among the differences al Faruqi perceives between the two religions is the way they view revelation and reason.

For the Muslim, the nature of knowledge is "God knows better," he said. "No contradiction between reason and revelation can be final."

However, Christianity is "radically different" in its approach to reason, al Faruqi said.

"Knowledge that comes through the faculty

of reason is knowledge of the world, and knowledge of the world is not religious knowledge."

Christianity's effort to combine "knowledge of the world" with the spirit of revelation is an attempt "to have your cake and eat it too," al Faruqi said.

"Revelation" also means different things to adherents of the two religions, he said. To a Muslim, to quote the Koran is to "silence each and every argument." To Christians, however, the scriptures are only "one-half the truth," he said.

In Christianity, God "revealed himself through Jesus," al Faruqi said. Unlike Islam, revelation is centered around an event instead of simply a message.

Also, Christianity regards other views as heresy, al Faruqi said, while the Muslim looks at the other view as "a contender." Orthodoxy in Islam is "kept to a minimum" because the Muslim is bound by the Koran to listen to "new evidence," he said.

The Christian idea of service and morality is based on the expectation of the "arrival of the kingdom of God." Perhaps only Buddhism, al Faruqi said, approaches Christianity in its emphasis on "inner values, inner determinants."

Islam calls for its believers to rebuild the world into a pattern already established by God, he said. Islam is "societistic," while Christianity is individualistic, he added.

"Islam is world-affirming, par excellence, while Christianity is world-denying, par excellence."

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The Duck Week Mystery Duck Contest

*Puzzle me, Puzzler, let the tale be told,
And as the Mystery Duck let my secret name unfold.
Each hint is buried in a clue.
Put them all together and the prize will ripely fall to you.*

Clues as to the Mystery Duck's identity will be placed in the EMERALD today through Friday, May 15. When you think you've cracked the mystery simply call ext. 5555 and Noreen will take your name and answer.

There can be several winners so don't give up until the Canoe Fete on Friday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. when the winners will be awarded prizes.

*Good luck Duck hunting!
The S.U.R.C.*

Mystery Duck Clue # 1:

*As companions I have had them all.
Now call the roll:
Cicero, Seward, Clay and Morse,
W.E. Borah and Fulbright, of course.*

City takes over ambulance care

The cities of Eugene and Springfield took over ambulance service earlier this week for the areas formerly served by a private ambulance service, Medical Services Inc.

In a meeting with Eugene and Springfield city managers Wednesday evening, MSI bankruptcy attorneys agreed to release the company's paramedic employees and let licenses for its ambulance operations expire.

Through an emergency plan, emergency calls to MSI have been rerouted to Eugene Fire Department dispatchers.

About 30 applications have been received for the paramedic positions at the Springfield Fire Department and about 40 have been received at the Eugene Fire Department.

Both Eugene and Springfield city councils will discuss ambulance service alternatives at meetings Monday.

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