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Editorial

The Dear Readers,

Welcome to the May edition of Insights of Mystical, Spiritual and Theological Studies, a journal dedicated to exploring the intricate tapestry of religious thought, spiritual exploration and theological discourse from around the globe. In this issue, we delve into diverse topics that range from ancient practices to contemporary issues, connecting past insights with present challenges.

Our journey begins with an intriguing analysis by Alif Awwal and Dr. Syed Raheem Abbas Shah, exploring the evolving theological views among contemporary Zoroastrians in Sistan-o-Baluchistan. Their work provides a bridge between ancient Zoroastrian traditions and the religion's modern-day adaptations, offering a unique perspective on religious persistence and change.

Venturing into the realm of literature and mysticism, Valiyar Aibak and Dr. Muhammad Asim examine the mystical elements in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.' Their exploration reveals the deep spiritual undercurrents of this classic poem, highlighting Coleridge's contributions to mystical literature.

From the world of poetry to the sphere of Sufi thought, Gulnara Hassanova and Aziza Mehmandarova, guided by Dr. Samina Noor, provide comparative insights into how the philosophies of Rumi and Iqbal have been received and integrated into Pakistani and Turkish cultures. This article not only traces the impact of Sufi philosophy but also illuminates its relevance in contemporary cultural dialogues.

In a compelling discourse on modernity and tradition, Wali Shah Barkatov and Tariq Saeed tackle the complex interplay between sexuality and spirituality within Islamic thought and practice. Their analysis challenges readers to reconsider preconceived notions and engage with evolving interpretations within Islamic scholarship.

Finally, Zainab Sajid and Khadija Iqbal, under the guidance of Grigol Uznadze, explore how Orthodox Christianity influenced the development of Medieval European cities. This piece offers a unique lens through which to view urban transformations and the pervasive impact of religious structures on city landscapes.

Each article in this edition invites readers to transcend geographical and temporal boundaries, fostering a deeper understanding of how mystical, spiritual, and theological currents shape, and are shaped by, human experiences across different cultures and eras. We hope this issue inspires you to reflect on the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity, belief and practice, and the sacred and the secular. Join us in this scholarly expedition to uncover new insights and rediscover ancient wisdoms.

Happy reading!

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo
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