



INSIGHTS OF MYSTICAL, SPIRITUAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

ISSN (P): 2958-5082 | ISSN (Online): 2958-5090

Vol. 02, No. 05, June 2023



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Editorial

The Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of Insights of Mystical, Spiritual, and Theological Studies (IMSTS). In this issue, we have curated a collection of thought-provoking articles that explore the rich tapestry of human spirituality and delve into the depths of theological understanding. From the examination of sacred texts to the exploration of mystical beliefs and practices, this edition offers a diverse range of perspectives and intellectual engagement.

We begin with a captivating review of "The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts" by the esteemed author Karen Armstrong. James Monro, a respected Research Associate at Theos in Westminster, London, provides us with an in-depth analysis of Armstrong's work, emphasizing the significance of preserving and interpreting sacred texts in our modern world.

Continuing our journey, we embark on an exploration of Sufism in Abkhazia, guided by the expertise of Dr. Syed Raheem Abbas, an Assistant Professor of Political Science. In this enlightening article, Dr. Abbas and Rauf Iskandar, a Research Scholar at Abkhazian State University, shed light on the mystical beliefs and practices that have persisted in Abkhazia despite the challenges of the post-Soviet era.

Shifting our focus to the realm of media and its interaction with political Islam in Pakistan, we present a critical evaluation of Farooq A. Kperogi's book. Ali Hussain, a Member at Islamabad Press Policing and News Editor at ARY News, along with Abid Hussain, a Content Writer at the Asia Inclusive Think Tank, delve into the intricate relationship between media and political Islam, offering valuable insights and analysis.

We then delve into the depths of Augustine's theology, as Grigol Uznadze, a Research Scholar at the Ilia State University, presents a critical review of John C. Cavadini's seminal work, "The Theology of Augustine's Confessions." Uznadze's article provides a nuanced understanding of Augustine's profound theological insights as revealed through his influential autobiographical work.

Lastly, we unravel the mysteries of Hurufism through the expertise of Dr. Muhammad Asim, an Assistant Professor of Political Science. Dr. Asim takes us on a captivating journey, exploring the evolution, philosophical underpinnings, and contemporary practices of Hurufism, shedding light on this mystical tradition's enduring relevance.

We hope that this edition of IMSTS provides you with valuable insights, intellectual stimulation, and a deeper understanding of the diverse aspects of mystical, spiritual, and theological studies. We express our gratitude to all the authors and contributors for their remarkable scholarship and dedication.

Enjoy the enriching journey ahead as we explore the realms of knowledge, faith, and spirituality.

Warm regards,

Dr. Shumaila Arzoo
RMR Representative in IPICS
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