

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The
KING ABDULLAH II
IBN AL-HUSSEIN WAQF
for the
INTEGRAL CHAIR
— for the study of Imam —
FAKHR AL-DIN AL-RAZI'S
Work at
THE KING HUSSEIN
— bin Talal Mosque, the —
UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
and
W.I.S.E. UNIVERSITY



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ثُمَّ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْبَيَانَ
صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

*Then lo! upon Us (resteth)
the explanation thereof.*

Al-Qiyamah, 75:19





*In Honour of the 50th Birthday of
HM King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein*

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In Honour

— *of the* —

50th Birthday

— *of* —

HM King Abdullah II

ibn Al-Hussein

— *on* —

January 30, 2012





His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein

Introduction

Fakr al-Din al-Razi is arguably the most authoritative theologian in Islam. Known as Sheikh al-Islam, al-Razi was a jurist, exegete, Sufi and a polymath who authored over 100 books on subjects as diverse as Qur'anic exegesis, theology, jurisprudence, mathematics, medicine, law and philology. It was said of him that he was "An ocean that contains more pearls than the ocean". The true jewel in his oeuvre, however, is certainly *Mafatih al-Ghayb* ('Keys to the Unknown'). Known more popularly as *al-Tafsir al-Kabir* ('The Great Commentary'), *Mafatih al-Ghayb* is one of the most extensive commentaries on the Holy Qur'an and considered by many to be the greatest of all Tafsirs. In addition to his writings, al-Razi was a sought-after teacher and philosopher who could debate in both Arabic and Persian. He travelled extensively and wherever he went, hundreds of students would follow to learn under him.

The King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein Waqf for the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Fakhr al-Din al-Razi's Work will be established at the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University. The Chair will enjoy full independent administration and will be the sole party in charge of selecting students, offering scholarships and awarding the King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein Prize for the Study of Imam al-Razi's Scholarly Legacy. The position will be filled by an accomplished scholar who will meet stringent requirements; chief among them being fluency in both Arabic and English.

Sheikh al-Islam Fakhr al-Din al-Razi

Muhammad ibn Omar ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Hussein Abu Abdullah al-Qurashi, al-Bakri, al-Taymi, al-Tabaristani, al-Shafi'i
(543-606 AH / 1148-1209 CE)

Fakhr al-Din al-Razi, known as Sheikh al-Islam and ibn al-Khatib, was born in Rayy in 543/1148 and died in Herat in 1148/1209. Arguably the most authoritative theologian in Islam, al-Razi was a jurist, exegete, Sufi and a polymath who authored over 100 books on subjects as diverse as Qur'anic exegesis, theology, jurisprudence, mathematics, medicine, law and philology. Al-Razi studied under his father, Khatib al-Rayy Diya' al-Din, and then under Majd al-Din al-Jili and Kamal al-Din al-Simnani. In his day al-Razi was Islam's most celebrated scholar and the spokesperson for *Ahl al-Sunnah*.

Al-Razi travelled throughout the lands of Islam and recorded his journeys in *Munazarat Fakhr al-Din al Razi fi Bi*

lad Ma Wara' al-Nahr ('Fakhr al-Din al-Razi's Discussions in Lands Beyond the River'). Students from all over the Muslim World travelled to study under al-Razi and wherever he moved, at least three hundred students would follow to learn under him. Eventually al-Razi settled in Herat, where a madrasa was built for him and where he died in 606/1209. Before he died, al-Razi dictated his last will and testament to a student. In it al-Razi says that the best way to pursue truth is through the Holy Qur'an:

I have explored the ways of *kalam* and the methods of philosophy, and I did not see in them a benefit that compares with the benefit I found in the Qur'an. For the latter hurries us to acknowledge that greatness and majesty belong only to Allah, precluding us from involvement into the explication of objections and contentions. This is for no other reason than because human minds find themselves deadened in those deep, vexing exercises and obscure ways [of *kalam* and philosophy]. Therefore, I say that everything that stands established by literal proofs concerning the necessity of Allah's existence, His oneness, His exemption from any and all partners, as well as His beginninglessness and pre-existence, His disposal of all things, His exclusive efficacy: that is what I also believe, and what I hope to meet Allah with ... for the books which I authored and in which I listed and explicated countless questions, let whoever looks into them remember me kindly and pray for me out of compassion and benevolence, or else, strike out any wrong words. For I did not intend other than abundant investigation and the sharpening of thought, all the while relying upon Allah.

—Fakhr al-Din al-Razi, *Wassiyah* ('Testament')





In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Deed of Endowment (Hujjat Waqf)

*The King Abdullah ibn al-Hussein Waqf for the Integral Chair
for the study of Imam Fakr al-Din al-Razi's Work at the
King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan
and W.I.S.E. University*

On this day, I, Amman's Shari'ah Court Judge / Authentication Branch, Iyad al-Khataybah went to the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman and held a legal Council attended by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein. In attendance with His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, His Eminence Prof. Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Hlayyel; the Chief Justice of Jordan and Imam of the Royal Hashemite Court, His Excellency Dr. Abdul-Salam al-Abbadi; Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, His Excellency Mr. Nasser Judeh; Minister of Foreign Affairs and His Excellency Mr. Muhammad al-Ru'ood; Minister of the Interior. As the person legally appointed and delegated by the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi praised God Almighty and stated that: In seeking nothing other than God's Grace; and due to the importance of the work of Imam Fakhr al-Din al-Razi; and in an attempt to revive religious sciences and educational Waqfs, I endow, for all eternity and until God inherits the earth and all that is on it, the amount of two million Jordanian Dinars (2,000,000 JD) as a charitable educational Waqf to study, in the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University, Imam al-Razi and his work. The Waqf will be under the name (The King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein Waqf for the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Fakhr al-Din al-Razi's Work at the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University). The sum will be deposited in the Arab-Islamic Bank in a charitable investment account. The bank will invest the endowed amount and its returns. The Waqf will be according to the following conditions and provisions:

First: Content of the Waqf:

The Waqf aims to serve Islamic thought and Islamic studies in general through:

1. Establishing at the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University an integral chair to teach the work and thought of Imam Fakhr al-Din al-Razi.
2. Establishing the King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein Prize for the Study of Imam al-Razi's Scholarly Legacy.
3. Offering a number of scholarships at the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University to study under the al-Razi Chair.

Second: The Amount of the Waqf:

The amount endowed to fulfil the purposes of this Waqf is two million (2,000,000) Jordanian Dinars deposited in the Islamic International Arab Bank under charitable account no. (... ..). The bank holding the deposited amount endowed for the Chair and the Prize is committed to investing the amount and its returns.

Third: Conditions for Selecting the Professor of the Integral al-Ghazali Chair:

The Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair has to meet the following conditions:

1. That he be Muslim of the *Ahl al-Sunnah* (Ash'arite, Maturidi) and committed to following one of the four Madhabs (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali).
2. That he observe prayers and be of fair and reputable character.
3. That he be a *hafiz* of the Holy Qur'an.
4. That he be specialized and highly qualified in Islamic Sciences with in-depth knowledge of Imam al-Razi, his work and scholarly legacy.
5. That he be fluent in both Arabic and English; reading, writing, and speaking.
6. That he be a PhD holder and a professor or associate professor at an accredited university or universities.
7. Priority of appointment will be for Jordanians, followed by those hailing from Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. If none can be found from Jordan, the Board will seek to find some-

one to fill the al-Razi Chair in a diplomatic capacity from Jordan.

8. If applicants for the Integral al-Razi Chair are found to be of equal qualifications, priority will be given to those who are members of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought.
9. The Board may reduce the condition of the professor being a Hafiz of the Holy Qur'an to being a Hafiz of six parts (*ajza'*) of the Qur'an.
10. The Board must recommend to the Board of Trustees to dismiss the Professor if he breaches a critical condition of the professorship.

Fourth: The Mutawalli of the Waqf:

Under this Waqf three Boards must be established;

First: a Board of Trustees whose mission is to undertake general supervision of the Waqf. In the case of extraordinary circumstances relating to the existence of the Waqf or anything affecting it legally, the matter will be referred to the Board of Trustees.

Second: an Investment Board, which is a financial board that supervises the investment and the financial development of the Waqf jointly with the General Mutawalli stipulated in the Law of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs under effect.

Third: the Board of the Integral al-Razi Chair which will undertake direct scholarly supervision of the Waqf and will issue executive directives regarding the Professorial Chair, the Prize, the scholarships and directives related to the Board of the Integral Chair and the Investment Board in addition to choosing and assessing the Professor who will fill the Chair.

(If attendees add up to over half the number of members, meetings will be considered legally official).

The Board of Trustees will consist of a Chairman and seven members as follows:

HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad (Followed by HRH's eldest son, then his eldest daughter, then his descendents through his male line then his descendents through his female line)	Chairman
HE Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs	Member
HE Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought	Member
HE Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Member
President of the University of Jordan	Member
President of W.I.S.E. University	Member
HE Head of the Jordanian Shari'a Court of Appeals	Member
HE the Imam of the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque	Member

The Financial Board will consist of three members chosen by the Board of Trustees.

The Academic Board of the Integral al-Razi Chair will consist of:

HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad	Chairman
HE Grand Mufti of Egypt Sheikh Ali Juma	Member
HE Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Said Ramadan al-Bouti	Member
HE Sheikh Omar bin Hafeez	Member
HE Sheikh al-Habib al-Jifri	Member
President of the University of Jordan	Member
President of W.I.S.E. University	Member

The Board will appoint replacements for members in case of death, incapacitation or recusal.

Fifth: Expenses of the Waqf:

Monies from the Waqf's profits, its investment returns, revenue and donations will be spent on the following:

First: The King Abdullah II Waqf for the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam al-Razi's Work at the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque, the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University according to the following conditions:

1. The Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair commits to teaching Imam al-Razi's books by reading and teaching them in the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque according to a periodic program approved by the Board of the Integral al-Razi Chair.
2. The Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair commits to teaching one subject for one semester at the University of Jordan. The following semester he will teach the same subject at W.I.S.E. University. The subject should explore the works and teachings of Imam al-Razi according to a program approved by the University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University.
3. The Professor commits to teaching al-Razi's *al-Tafsir al-Kabir* in the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque.
4. A monthly stipend determined by the Investment Board will be awarded to the Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair. The University of Jordan and W.I.S.E. University will provide administrative support to the Professor so that he is fully empowered to fulfil his duties.
5. The Professor continues to fill his position as long as he is able to work (and as long as he does not breach any requirements of the Waqf without an excuse for a period of over a year or with an excuse for a period of over four years).
6. The Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair submits a yearly report on the state of the Chair.

Second: Scholarships. Two scholarships are offered to students who have excelled academically, one for a PhD, the other for an MA. The students will be tutored by the Professor of the Integral al-Razi Chair (to receive the desired degree from the University of Jordan or W.I.S.E. University or from a university approved by the Board). (They will also be certified to teach one of al-Razi's works).

No new scholarships are to be offered until scholarship students complete their studies or lose their right to the scholarship.

Priority of receiving scholarships is given to Jordanians.

Third: The King Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein Prize for the Study of Imam al-Razi's Scholarly Legacy:

A prize is awarded every two years to the best study or research paper on Islamic studies related to al-Razi and his work. The prize is supervised by the Board of the Integral al-Razi Chair which determines the value of the prize and its recipients.

If, for any reason, endowment revenue is interrupted temporarily or permanently, the Chair's Board of Trustees will determine the party that will be entrusted with the endowment funds and investment revenues.

Sixth: Certification

This Waqf will be certified in Jordanian Shari'ah Courts and its title shall be inscribed on a marble tablet affixed to a hallway in the King Hussein bin Talal Mosque.

Seventh: Accommodation, Insurance & Professor's Needs

The University of Jordan will ensure that the Professor has suitable accommodation and will see to any other needs he may have. W.I.S.E. University will be responsible for the Professor's salary and health insurance.

Signatories

And so, we hereby register this Waqf; the work of which will be carried out in accordance to the articles recorded herein as of the following date 1 Rabi Awwal 1433AH (24 January 2012 CE).

1. HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad
2. HE the Chief Justice and Imam of the Royal Hashemite Court
3. Amman's Shari'ah Court Judge/Authentication Branch
4. HE The Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
5. HE The Minister of the Interior
6. HE The Minister of Foreign Affairs
7. Director of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought
8. President of the University of Jordan
9. President W.I.S.E. University
10. Chairman of the Board of the Arab Bank



