

## Ismaʿīl Rājī al-Fārūqī

**Born:** January 1, 1921 in Jaffa, in British-mandate Palestine.

### **Education:**

Al-Faruqi at first emigrated to Beirut, Lebanon, where he studied at the American University of Beirut, then enrolled the next year at Indiana University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, obtaining his M.A. in philosophy in 1949.

He was then accepted for entry into Harvard University's department of philosophy and was awarded his second M.A. in philosophy there in March 1951, with a thesis entitled *Justifying the Good: Metaphysics and Epistemology of Value* (1952).

Al-Faruqi argued that Scheler's axiological intuitionism privileged feeling as knowing, thus recognizing the logic of the heart as an a priori emotional intuition of value. Such recognition could justify carving out a conceptual as well as practical space for the emergence of a critique of post-Enlightenment Reason from the standpoint of a non-Western philosopher. However, he decided to return to Indiana University; he submitted his thesis to the Department of Philosophy and received his PhD in September 1952. By then he had a background in classical philosophy and the developing thought of the western tradition. In the beginning of 1953, he and his wife were in Syria. He then moved to Egypt, where he studied at Al-Azhar University (1954–1958) again with a view to acquiring another PhD.

### **Workspace:**

In 1958, al-Faruqi was offered a position as a visiting fellow at the Faculty of Divinity at McGill University in Canada. During his two-year tenure at McGill, he studied Christian theology and Judaism, and became acquainted with the famous Pakistani Muslim philosopher Fazlur Rahman. In order to challenge al-Faruqi's Arabocentric views of Islam, and to broaden his scope of understanding the ummah, in 1961, Rahman arranged a two-year appointment for him in Pakistan at the Central Institute of Islamic Research. Rahman intended to expose al-Faruqi to the cultural diversity of Muslims and their contributions to Islam.

### **Publications:**

#### **Books:**

- (1953) *From Here We Start*, tr. from the Arabic of K.M. Khalid. Washington, DC: American Council of Learned Societies.
- (1953) *Our Beginning in Wisdom*, tr. from the Arabic of M. al Ghazali. Washington, DC: American Council of Learned Societies.
- (1953) *The Policy of Tomorrow*, tr. from the Arabic of M. B. Ghali. Washington, DC: American Council of Learned Societies.
- (1962) *ʿUrubah and Religion: An Analysis of the Dominant Ideas of Arabism and of Islam as Its Heights Moment of Consciousness*, vol. 1 of *On Arabism*, Amsterdam: Djambatan.
- (1964) *Usul al Sahyuniyah fi al Din al Yahudi (An Analytical Study of the Growth of Particularism in Hebrew Scripture)*. Cairo: Institute of Higher Arabic Studies.
- (1968) *Christian Ethics: A Systematic and Historical Analysis of Its Dominant Ideas*. Montreal: McGill University Press and Amsterdam: Djambatan, Amsterdam.
- (1980) *Islam and the Problem of Israel*. London: The Islamic Council of Europe ISBN 983-9541-34-X
- (1982) *Triologue of the Abrahamic Faiths*, ed. Herndon, VA: IIIT ISBN 0-915957-25-6.
- (1982) *Islamization of Knowledge*. Herndon, VA: IIIT.

- (1982) *Tawhid: Its Implications for Thought and Life*. Kuala Lumpur: IIIT.
- (1985) *Islam and Other Faiths*. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications.
- (1986) *The Cultural Atlas of Islam*. New York: Macmillan.
- (2012) *Islam: Religion, Practice, Culture & World Order*, London; IIIT (posthumous work updated and edited by Imtiyaz Yusuf).

**Articles:**

- "On the Ethics of the Brethren of Purity and Friends of Fidelity (Ikhwan al Safa wa Khillan al Wafa)", *The Muslim World*, vol. L, no. 2, pp. 109–21; no. 4, pp. 252–58; vol. LI, no. 1, pp. 18–24.
- "On the Significance of Reinhold Niebuhr's Ideas of Society", *Canadian Journal of Theology*, vol. VII, no. 2, pp. 99–107. Reprinted in *Muslim Life*, vol. XI, no. 3 (Summer 1964): 5–14.

**References:**

- Muhammad Shafiq, *Growth of Islamic Thought in North America: Focus on Isma'il Raji al Faruqi*, Amana Publications, 1994 ISBN 0-915957-16-7.
- Imtiyaz Yusuf, *Islam and Knowledge: Al Faruqi's Concept of Religion in Islamic Thought* London: I. B. Tauris, 2012. Festschrift in honor of Prof. Ismail al-Faruqi.