

Review of: "From Avicenna to Salam: The Excommunication of Muslim Scholars in the Islamic World"

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In general, this article reviews the decline of scientific and intellectual activity in the Islamic world. This is based on philosophical and theological paradoxes, especially the views of Al-Ghazali and Ibn Taymiyah, which are not conducive to scientific and intellectual activities. According to the author, the dominance of shallow theologians, Sufism, and the influence of Salafis on rulers in the past are the main causes of backwardness in the Islamic world, which continues to occur today, as experienced by Professor Abdus Salam in Pakistan. Of course, this author's views are interesting to follow considering the phenomena that occur in many countries in the Middle East.

According to the author, although the disparaging factors are not singular, one of them is expressing an opinion on a philosophical matter. It is recorded in the author's statement; "The Islamic world is similar everywhere, but there are important differences. The repression of the philosophical and theological opinions of scientists continues." This oppression boils down to two main phrases: "infidel and excommunication."

One of the reasons for this excommunication is recorded in the author's statement: "The excommunication of Islamic scholars is based on their beliefs which are contrary to Islamic law. This means that often the excommunication of Islamic clerics has nothing to do with their works in the natural sciences, but is the result of their philosophical, religious, and political opinions." Of course, doubts about this idea are reduced after reading the citations or references referred to by the author.

The conclusion of this article is as emphasized by the author: "Many people emphasize that Islam as a religion values science and scientists, but I think otherwise. The Islamic religious system does not recommend asking big, significant, and fundamental questions because these questions are answered by the Al-Qur'an and Hadith." Of course, this conclusion can still be debated by other authors. However, any debate is always open in scientific and intellectual activities, and thus knowledge and intellect are increasingly advanced.