

OBITUARIES

Professor Malik Babikr Badri (1932 - 2021)

Norliza Saleh

Professor Malik Babikr Badri Mohammed, a professor of psychology, a prolific writer, and a mentor, passed away at the age of 88 on February 8th, 2021. He completed his primary studies in Sudan and earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the American University of Beirut. He completed his PhD at the University of Leicester, England, in 1961 and Postgraduate Certificate of Clinical Psychology from the Academic Department of Psychiatry of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School of London University in 1966. His academic career began as a Fellow at the British Psychological Society, where he was awarded the title of Chartered Psychologist. He was a professor at the International Islamic University Malaysia for more than 20 years.

In the 1960s, he became very active in reforming the secular framework of modern psychology. Malik Badri's most influential book, *The Dilemma of Muslim Psychologists*, published in London in 1979, had been a major game-changer for Muslim students to be more critical of Western psychological theories and practices. He emphasised the integration of spirituality (soul) and modern psychology, which constitutes a foundation for Islamic psychology and psychotherapy. In recognition of his outstanding achievement, he received honorary awards by UNESCO and WHO. He was conferred with the medal of Shahid Zubair by the President of Sudan.

Islamic psychology today is no longer an alien subject. Malik Badri's devotion and enthusiasm for the Islamisation of Psychology began to bear fruit. He initiated many university departments, centres, and associations, including the Applied Psychology Department at the University of Khartoum and the Psychological Clinic of the University of Riyadh. Acknowledging his contributions, IIUM granted Malik Badri as the holder of the Ibn Khaldun Chair. In 2017, he gathered a number of prominent Muslim psychologists worldwide and founded the International Association of Islamic Psychology (IAIP) with the objective to form a more comprehensive Islamic framework of psychology. He was very active in giving lectures and keynote addresses until the last days of his life.

IAIS Malaysia was very fortunate to have him present a paper, “Emotional Blasting Therapy: A Psychotherapeutic Technique Invented by Early Muslim Physicians,” at IAIS’s International Conference on Developing Synergies Between Islam and Science & Technology for Mankind’s Benefit on 2 October 2014. In that conference, he emphasised the importance of going back to the original Islamic sources and the works of early Muslim predecessors in the field of psychology; most of which have been underestimated. For instance, the therapeutic technique, ‘flooding’, that inverts the gradual approach of systematic desensitisation was first invented by Muslim doctors, ar-Razi and Ibn Sina. They believed that unexpected explosive emotion could cure psychological, psychosomatic and organic disorders. Unfortunately, this therapy is not fully utilised by Muslim psychologists.

He wrote many important books, including *Contemplation: An Islamic Psychospiritual Study*, *Cyber-counseling for Muslim Clients*, *Islam and AIDS: Between Scorn, Pity and Justice*, and *Abu Zayd al-Balkhi’s Sustenance of the Soul*. Some books have been translated into other languages.

Indeed, his death is a great loss to the Muslim ummah. Former students and colleagues remembered him as an enthusiastic, thoughtful and supportive professor, who always had a broad smile and his speech was always with wisdom. Malik Badri is survived by his wife, Dr Fatimah and seven children. Our deepest and most sincere condolences to his family, and may his soul be blessed and placed among the pious in paradise. His legacy in Islamic psychology will always be remembered.

Professor Emeritus Dato’ Abdul Hamid A. Abu Sulayman (1936-2021)

Nurul Ain Norman

Dato’ Abdul Hamid A. Abu Sulayman was a notable Muslim scholar of the twentieth century and a key figure in the Islamisation of knowledge movement. Born into a respectable family in Mecca in 1936, he graduated from the University of Cairo in 1959 and 1963, respectively, with degrees in commerce and political science. He obtained his PhD in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania in 1973. He had a brief administrative career before becoming the chairman of King Saud University’s political science department. He was also the founding member of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and the