

Editorial

Tan Sri Ahmad Ibrahim

Tan Sri Prof. Datuk Ahmad Mohamad Ibrahim, Deputy Rector International Islamic University and a member of the editorial board of this journal died on 17th April 1999 at the age of 82. "To Allah we belong, and to Him we return."

Prof. Ahmad was one of the most distinguished legal scholars of our time, and his death has created a void which appears difficult to fill. During his life he worked in many capacities, but always kept the interest of ummah foremost in his mind. He was born in Singapore, where he received his early education, and later on went to Cambridge from where he obtained a first class honours degree in Economics and Law. At Cambridge he also got involved in Muslim students activities with students from various countries. They included, among others, Choudhry Rahmat Ali, Ishtiaq Husain Qureshi, M.A. Muid Khan, A.C.M. Ameer Ali, all of whom were deeply influenced by Iqbal. He recounted these experiences in an article published in this journal (see "Pakistan and South-East Asia: Some Personal Recollections," *Intellectual Discourse*, Vol 5, No 2, 99-108).

He rose rapidly in his legal career, and ultimately became Attorney General of Singapore. Later, Prof. Ahmad gave up his civil service career and went for teaching in the University of Malaya, where in 1972 he founded the Faculty of Law and was appointed its Dean. Later on in 1983 he co-founded the International Islamic University Malaysia, and was again entrusted to establish a unique Faculty of Laws. He served as the Shaikh and Dean of this faculty for the rest of his life. For some period he also served as Acting Deputy Rector and Acting Rector of IIUM. As an educationist he promoted such education which helps to integrate one's faith in Almighty Allah (SWT) with day

to day activities, and belief in eternal values with social situations.

Tan Sri was a keen researcher and writer. Apart from editing many journals, he wrote more than 30 books including *Islamic Law in Malaya*, *Towards a History of Law in Malaysia and Singapore*, *Family Law in Malaysia and Singapore*, and *Legal Education in Malaysia*. He also contributed more than 200 articles in professional journals. His commitment to academic work can be gauged from the fact that a day before he breathed his last, he completed the final chapter of the book he was working on. Scholars of such dedication are not born every day. Despite his immense learning and high station in life he was an extremely modest person. His personal piety and devotion to duty would remain a glittering example for all of us.

May Allah shower his choicest blessings on his soul and guide his family, friends, students and admirers to emulate the shining example he left.

Zafar Afaq Ansari