

IsHeC 2021



Cawangan Melaka



47th INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC HERITAGE CONFERENCE 2021

e-proceeding

2 Sept 2021

Virtual Conference
Melaka, Malaysia

Organized by:

Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies
(ACIS), Universiti Teknologi MARA, Melaka,
Malaysia

in Collaboration with:

Research, Industry, Community & Alumni
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Melaka

PROCEEDING
4TH INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC HERITAGE CONFERENCE
2021 (ISHEC '21)

**“ISLAMIC HERITAGE: STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE,
EMPOWERING THE ACHIEVEMENT”**

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e-Proceedings of International Islamic Heritage Conference 2021 (IsHeC '21)
02 September 2021
Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies (ACIS),
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Melaka, Malaysia

The editorial board would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for the contributions made by the authors, co-authors and all who were involved in the publication of this e-proceedings.

Published by:
Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies (ACIS)
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Melaka, Malaysia

Published date: 23 August 2021

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e-ISBN: 978-967-2846-07-9

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INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE ISLAMIC THOUGHT: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAYYED ISMAIL (1936-2010)

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the intellectual contributions of Sayyed Ismail Bukhari (1936-2010), a great scholar, author and reformer from South India. Sayyed Ismail, who is also locally known as Panoor Thangal, produced seminal works on Quranic exegesis, hadith, fiqh and theology during his lifetime. Despite the profound personality and pivotal works, no serious studies are found which critically scrutinise his theses on Islamic thought and religious studies. In addition, his books, mainly written in Arabic and some of them even published in some Arab countries, shed light on his Islamic thought, which upholds the dimensions of relevantization of Islamic knowledge. He exclusively chose Arabic, not his mother tongue Malayalam, in his writings for a reason. His target audience is not limited to his community in Kerala only but also the Muslim world. This paper analyses his works to further understand the contributions and impacts of Sayyed Ismail to Islamic thought in light of his various academic engagements and activism. Sayyed Ismail is indeed a reformer from Kerala whose reform works involve bringing the Muslim communities to champion the cause of humanity based on the teachings of Islam.

Keywords: Sayyed Ismail Bukhari; South India; Islamic thoughts.