The True Significance of Islamic Caliphate

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society (U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement) hosts a symposium each year devoted to a topic about Islam that is relevant to contemporary issues. With the rise of a so-called “Islamic State” in Iraq and Syria, causing chaos in the region and abroad in the name of Islam, this year the focus will be on dispelling misinformation about the concept of Caliphate in Islam.

What is an Islamic Caliphate? What does the Quran state about it? Historically, how did the early successors to Prophet Muhammad become Caliphs and perform their duties as head of the Muslim community? And, is a Caliphate limited to temporal succession or does it entail a spiritual dispensation? These questions and more will be discussed at this year’s symposium. Far from the images of autocratic and tyrannical rule, persecution of minorities, and aggressive warfare that are commonly attributed to the word “Caliphate” today, a review of the authoritative sources of Islam reveals a much different perspective. This counter-narrative of the true significance of Islamic Caliphate we hope will provide meaningful information to balance the dialogue on this popular yet misunderstood topic.

The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement has been promoting an understanding of Islam based on its spiritual foundations, primarily through its world-renowned literature and historic missions, for over 100 years. In the spirit of this legacy of creating relationships of peace and tolerance, we invite you to join us for this year’s symposium.

We look forward to you honoring us with your presence!