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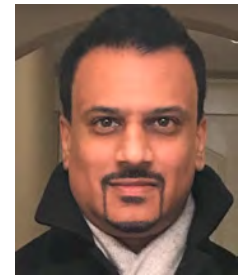
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Fazeel Khan will discuss religion and spirituality in the Islamic tradition

Fazeel Khan will discuss the connection between religion and spirituality from the perspective of the Islamic tradition in his Torch paper to be presented over Zoom on Thursday, February 4. The title of his paper is “Islamic Spirituality: the Qu’ran, the Symbolism of Jesus, and the Poetry of Rumi.”

The Torch Club meeting over Zoom will begin at 7 p.m. The link to the meeting is the same one each month. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89961138689?pwd=alBrcEtrYVFrSUNNTXp1VTFabnhKdz09>

“The phrase ‘spiritual but not religious’ has become quite popular in recent times,” Fazeel says. “Polls show a consistent decline in the number of Americans who affiliate with a faith tradition and that a large percentage of Americans (approximately 25%) do not believe religion is important in their lives. Although the number of people who turn away from organized religion is rapidly increasing, that does not necessarily equate with a diminished sense of spirituality in their lives. The trend of not being religiously observant seems more to do with how religion as an institution is viewed and a perceived divide between religiosity and spirituality.”



Fazeel Khan

In exploring the connection between religion and spirituality, Fazeel asks, “Can religion foster the ideals of spirituality that people want to incorporate in their lives?” His Torch paper will address this question from the perspective of the Islamic tradition.

“Teachings from the Quran that define spirituality will be shared, including provisions on how scripture is to be interpreted so as to provide practical lessons for nurturing spirituality in one’s daily life. In addition, poetry from the 13th century Muslim mystic Rumi, whose writings have become very popular in the West, will be presented to illustrate lessons on Jesus symbolizing the divine spirit within each person according to the spiritual tradition of Islam.”

Biography of Fazeel S. Khan

Born in the Fiji Islands, Fazeel Khan’s family moved to Vancouver, Canada, when he was a year old. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Simon Fraser University with a major in criminology and a minor in psychology. He attended the University of Windsor in Windsor, Canada, to obtain a law degree and then Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland to earn a Master of Laws degree.

(Continued on page 2)

Biography of Fazeel S. Khan

(Continued from page 1)

Fazeel has been practicing law in Ohio for 15 years, specializing in civil rights law, primarily in the context of employees' rights. He is a member of the Ohio Supreme Court bar, the Federal 6th Circuit bar, the Federal Court of Claims bar and the United States Supreme Court bar.

Fazeel is the secretary of the board for the Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society, which is the U.S. branch of the international Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. For the past 15 years, he has been the editor of a pioneering periodical on Islam in the English language started in the early 1900s titled *The Light and Islamic Review*. He is active in a number of local interfaith programs, including being the past president of The Interfaith Center for Peace and on the board of directors of The Horizon Prison Initiative.

He has been a member of the Torch Club since 2007. He is an avid hockey fan. He continues to play hockey locally and is a co-founder of the Columbus Dek Hockey Association.

President's message: Love and peace are foundations of religions

Considering the limitations the pandemic has placed on our monthly Torch meetings, I would say that, so far, we have had a stellar year with our Zoom presentations. I now am looking forward very much to hearing Fazeel Khan share with us aspects of Islamic spirituality at our February gathering. My daughter gave me for Christmas "a memoir of love and resistance" by Linda Sarsour titled *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*. My reading of this book has fueled my interest in Fazeel's upcoming talk.



**Susan Warrener
Smith**

This memoir traces Sarsour's family heritage, her parents emigrating to the U.S. from Palestine and her experience as a first generation American. The book draws a clear picture of pre-9/11 and post 9/11 New York where she was born and bred. From her school days in Brooklyn to an arranged but happy marriage to the birth of three children to an unexpected life of activism, this book is most informative about Muslim life, culture, and spirituality. For me personally her role as national co-chair of the Women's March on Washington serves as an inspiring model for the women of today. Little did I know that this remarkable woman was the inspiration for my own journey to Washington with my daughter, my niece, and my sister-in-law and her sisters.

With all the turmoil of the past few years, Sansour's commitment to justice through nonviolence grounded in her religious heritage and spirituality reminds us that love and peace are the foundations of all the great world religions and that violence and hatred are anathema to the God we worship. I hope to see you on February 4!

Please mail dues payment of \$50 for 2020-21

The Columbus Torch Club Board of Directors set dues for 2020-21 at \$50. If in-person Torch meetings resume at some point in the first half of 2021, members will receive credit for the two meetings canceled last April and May. If more than two in-person meetings are held, the club will charge \$30 for each additional meeting to cover the meal cost. Please mail your dues payment of \$50 to Howard Gauthier, 2751 Alliston Court, Columbus, OH 43220. Your check should be written to the "Torch Club of Columbus."

Schedule of Torch Club speakers and their papers for 2020-21

October 1, 2020: **“Lofty Aspirations, Humble Beginnings: The Early Years at OSU”** by Rai Goerler

November 5, 2020: **“I’m Available: The Life and Career of a Free Lance Illustrator”** by Roy Lewicki

December 3, 2020: **Social gathering** over Zoom.

January 7, 2021: **“What Columbus Invented and What It Didn’t”** by Joe Blundo

February 4, 2021: **“Islamic Spirituality: the Qu’ran, the Symbolism of Jesus, and the Poetry of Rumi”** by Fazeel Khan

March 4, 2021: **“The All-Volunteer Military: The Pros, the Cons, and the Alternatives”** by Greg Travalio

April 1, 2021: **“How Do Women and Men Differ in Their Work”** by Francille Firebaugh

May 6, 2021: **“The Man Behind Warren Buffett’s Curtain”** by Tom Costantiello

Board of Directors for Torch Club of Columbus, Ohio, for 2020-21

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