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**“Huston Smith’s and Dr Fazlur Rahman Ansari’s Contributions to Abrahamic Religions in the 20th Century”**

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**Abstract**

This paper explores the key contributions of Huston Smith and Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari to the study of Abrahamic religions in the 20th century. Huston Smith's work, particularly "The World's Religions," has been instrumental in promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding by presenting a respectful and comprehensive view of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari, a prominent Islamic scholar, emphasized the compatibility of Islam with modernity and advocated for a rational and dynamic interpretation of Islamic teachings. His efforts have significantly influenced modern Islamic thought. This study highlights how both scholars have enriched the discourse on Abrahamic religions, fostering mutual respect and coexistence.

**Keywords:** Abrahamic Religions, Comparative Study, Interfaith Dialogue, Religious Studies, Impact and Legacy.

**Introduction**

Religion has always been an important part of our moral, ethical, and daily lives, as shown by the history of civilization. Religion has helped people, groups, and cultures figure out how to live their lives in the right way. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the Abrahamic religions. They are like tall pillars in this huge temple of faith, and their influence can be felt all over the world. These religions, which have their roots in Abraham, have spread around the world and gained a lot of followers. As a result, political and social power has changed. Jews are often called "the grand old

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man," and their religion has its roots in God's promise to Abraham, the Hebrew patriarch. The Torah, which is the most important book in Judaism, has long taught about a God who wants to do right and heal. It has also led groups of pilgrims by defining their unique calling and liturgical duties in the times they lived in.

Jews were the foundation of Christianity. When Jesus Christ became the Son of God and offered salvation to everyone, Christianity grew from there. Jesus' teachings and life, which culminated in his death and resurrection, turned a Jewish preacher who was once unknown into a shining example that still inspires art, music, and people today. Islam is the newest of the Abrahamic religions. It began in a cave in the middle of Arabia's mountains in the seventh century CE. Revelations to the Prophet Muhammad proved that he was the last in a line of prophets that began with Abraham. The revelations that were put together in the Quran said that there was only one God and that justice and fairness should be done. They were not Muhammad's ideas; they came from God.

Even though these religions have changed over time, they all have Abrahamic roots in common. All three faiths have sacred stories that come from the same divine source. For example, Moses parting the seas for Israel, Jesus' conception and resurrection, and Muhammad being the last prophet are all examples of this. Each tradition says it has a direct link to God's will, which was communicated to people through prophets. Abraham is known as the "father of faith" in world history because he had a big impact on the Abrahamic religions, which have changed faith, morality, community identity, and the story of human civilization as a whole. An Islamic scholar named Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari showed this link in his writings and in his work to bring Islam and the other Abrahamic faiths closer together. Ansari was a well-known person who helped American Muslims follow their true traditions while also fitting in with society and staying true to their religious identity. He was born in Bangladesh.

Ansari and Huston Smith, who is a well-known religious historian, worked to break down the walls between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Smith, who wrote the detailed book "The World's Religions," agreed with Ansari that people should respect each other and was against religious nationalism. Both men wanted to end past conflicts between these faiths and help them understand and respect each other. The lives and works of Huston Smith and Dr. Fazlur Rahman

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Ansari show how dialogue and mutual respect between different religions can change things. They dreamed of a time when people would not only accept but also celebrate the beliefs of their neighbors. People who value the spiritual teachings of the East are still moved by their vision, which also gives people hope for a better future.

Islam, Christianity, and Judaism are some of the Abrahamic religions that have changed a lot in the 20th century. There has never been a bigger surge in academic and religious discussions, as well as scholarly projects that aim to reveal the depths, similarities, and differences between these old religions. Huston Smith and Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari made important contributions that can be seen among its many bright colors. There are a lot of studies that compare the Abrahamic religions, but their important work, original contributions, and academic efforts stand out. Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari and Dr. Huston Smith -Two Prominent Scholars of 20th century who contributed significantly to impart the greater knowledge and understanding of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Their vast educational output in teaching, writing and interaction with religious communities have helped shape not only the academy, but also inter religious dialogue.

**Huston Smith's Contributions:** Huston Smith's profound influence in the field of comparative religion stems from his seminal work "The World's Religions."<sup>1</sup> This seminal work afforded an in-depth and enlightening examination of all major religions of the world, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism as well as other belief systems. "Smith's methodology was built on creating an appropriate interfaith perspective, applicable to the closely related spiritual threads and profoundly imitated religious principles". While attempting to embrace cultural and doctrinal relativism, he was able to emphasize the common elements of religious experiences, moral systems and philosophical fundamentals that underlie all human societies.

Smith's methodology was marked by a profound respect for religious diversity. He didn't merely outline differences but instead focused on the unity and shared wisdom present in various faiths. His inclusive approach aimed to bridge gaps and promoted harmony among different religious communities. By highlighting the essential teachings and practices of each tradition, Smith's work

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, H. (1958). *The World's religions*. Harper One.

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provided a framework for comparative religious studies that emphasized respect, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the human spiritual quest.

Studies, such as William R. Hutchison's "The Modernist Impulse in American Protestantism,"<sup>ii2</sup> delve into Huston Smith's methodologies and perspectives, offering valuable insights into his impact on religious discourse. These analyses shed light on how Smith's inclusive approach and emphasis on spiritual unity influenced discussions on religious pluralism and interfaith dialogue. Hutchison's work and similar studies elucidate how Smith's teachings and writings have inspired and guided future scholars and practitioners in their endeavors to comprehend and appreciate religious diversity, advocating for mutual respect and cooperation among diverse religious traditions.

**Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari's Contributions:** Noted as a major figure in the comparative study of religion and Islam, Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari made a great contribution to this area of Islamic Scholars He has consistently published works which help bring together Islamic message and the learnt opinions of modern times. Ansari's works had stressed the need for a contextual and critical reading of religious texts shaped by an expanding society. His method called for a more energetic understanding of Islamic teachings, with the aims of harmonizing traditional Islam with modern conditions at the core of his philosophy, was emphasis on dialogue and understanding between Islam and other religions that helped building a culture of inclusiveness & togetherness.

Scholarly research, exemplified by Mohammad Khalid Masud's "Islamic Legal Interpretation,"<sup>iii3</sup> extensively explores Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari's methodologies, perspectives, and his profound impact on interfaith dialogue. Together these studies probe Ansari's scholarly approach and shed light on his attempt to advance a modern, broad-based understanding of Islam. For instance, they furnish proof of his work to bridge what he perceives as the increasing chasm in Islamic teachings and contemporary life that demanded remainder interpretation to cater to present-day society. Masud's work, among other similar academic inquiries, on the other hand, demonstrates Ansari's major progressive intellectual legacy of a contextual reading of his teachings in Islamic thought. Furthermore, Ansari has created a great detachment to supporting communal value and

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<sup>2</sup> Hutchison, W. R. (2013). *The modernist impulse in American Protestantism*. Oxford University Press.

<sup>3</sup> Masud, M. K. (1996). *Islamic legal interpretation: Muftis and their fatwas*. Harvard University Press.

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relationship, and also substantial dialogue among the different pious communities this depicts a world filled with respect for all humankind interfaith harmony everywhere.

#### **Key Themes in Huston Smith's "The World's Religions":**

Huston Smith's "The World's Religions" focuses on Islam, Christianity, and Judaism and explores several important themes that includes:

- **Monotheism:** The belief in one God is emphasized in all three religions. While Christianity claims the Trinity as three persons in one God, Islam stresses the oneness of God (Tawhid) with the Shahada ("There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet"). Judaism proclaims the Shema ("Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one").
- **Sacred Writings and Revelation:** Prophets' receiving of divine revelations forms the foundation of these religions. The Torah is found in Judaism; the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) in Christianity; and the Quran in Islam. These writings are seen to be the final manual for practice and faith.
- **Messengers and Prophets:** God's words are communicated in large part through prophets. While Islam regards Muhammad (PBUH) as the last prophet in a long line that includes many biblical figures, Judaism honors prophets like Moses, Christianity centers on Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the ultimate revelation.
- **Ethics and Moral Teachings:** Every one of the three religions offers thorough moral precepts. The teachings of Jesus and apostolic writings are offered by Christianity, the Ten Commandments and Talmudic law by Judaism, and Sharia law derived from the Quran and Hadith by Islam.
- **Rituals and Worship:** There are unique customs and worship styles for every religion. Islam stresses the Five Pillars, which include daily prayers (Salat) and Ramadan fasting; Judaism has dietary rules (Kashrut) and Sabbath observance; Christianity has sacraments like baptism and the Eucharist.

#### **Key Themes in Dr Fazlur Rahman Ansari's Works:**

Dr. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari was a prominent Islamic scholar known for his extensive works on Islamic thought and interfaith dialogue. His major contributions include "What is Islam?", "Which Religion?", and "Islam and Christianity in the Modern World". Each of these works addresses different aspects of Islamic philosophy, the comparison of world religions, and

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the relationship between Islam and Christianity. Below is an overview of the key themes and contributions of these works.

**Key Themes in “What is Islam?”:**

- **Essence of Islam:** This work provides a comprehensive overview of the fundamental beliefs and practices of Islam. Dr. Ansari emphasizes the core tenets of Tawhid (the oneness of God), Risalah (prophethood), and Akhirah (the afterlife).
- **Islamic Philosophy and Ethics:** Dr. Ansari explores the ethical and philosophical underpinnings of Islamic teachings. He discusses how Islam offers a complete code of life, integrating spiritual, moral, and social dimensions.
- **Misconceptions about Islam:** The book addresses common misconceptions and stereotypes about Islam, clarifying the religion's true teachings and dispelling myths perpetuated by both non-Muslims and misinformed Muslims.

**Key Themes in “Which Religion?”:**

- **Comparative Religion:** This book examines the major world religions, comparing their fundamental beliefs, practices, and worldviews.
- **Criteria for Truth:** Dr. Ansari proposes criteria for evaluating the truth claims of different religions, including rationality, consistency, comprehensiveness, and relevance to human needs.
- **Islam's Universality:** He argues for the universal applicability and relevance of Islam, presenting it as the final and complete revelation that addresses the spiritual and practical needs of humanity.

**Key Themes in “Islam and Christianity in the Modern World”:**

- **Historical Relationship:** The book delves into the historical interactions between Islam and Christianity, highlighting both periods of conflict and cooperation.
- **Theological Differences and Similarities:** Dr. Ansari analyzes the key theological differences and similarities between the two faiths, particularly in their views on God, prophethood, and salvation.
- **Contemporary Issues:** The work addresses contemporary issues affecting Muslim-Christian relations, including secularism, modernity, and the challenges of living in a pluralistic world.

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Religious studies academic viewpoints have been greatly expanded by "The World's Religions". Through a thorough and sympathetic survey of the main world religions Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, for example Smith has contributed to a more nuanced and inclusive knowledge in academic circles. His work promotes interdisciplinary research and comparative studies by its fair and perceptive depiction of religious traditions.

Smith's book has greatly advanced interfaith communication by encouraging respect and understanding amongst many religious groups. Through an emphasis of the fundamental doctrines and customs of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, Smith invites readers to recognize the similarities and distinctive contributions of each religion. This has promoted talks about common values and coexistence and helped to lessen prejudices. "The World's Religions" has increased public understanding of religious variety by opening religious studies to a wider audience. Readers of many backgrounds have found resonance in Smith's focus on the ethical and spiritual aspects of religions and his clear, captivating writing style. This better knowledge of the public contributes to the development of a more enlightened and tolerant society in which religious differences are respected and curiously observed rather than with suspicion.

"What is Islam?" had a huge effect on teaching about Islam and talking to people of other faiths. Muslims who want to learn more about their faith and non-Muslims who want to learn about Islam can both benefit from this work because it explains Islamic beliefs and practices clearly and easy to understand. It has been used a lot in religious studies and academic programs as a basic text that fills in knowledge gaps and helps people understand Islamic teachings better. This book is important because it gives a true and fair picture of Islam, which helps clear up misunderstandings and fight Islamophobia. This is why "What is Islam?" was fairly instrumental in fostering greater religious acceptance and reverence in the increasingly globalized and culturally varied societies of this world.

"Which Religion?" at least has caused otherwise well-meaning people to think and question the validity of religious truth claims. This comparative study has made a remarkable contribution to the theological thought. Dr. Ansari has nothing but created an opportunity for people from each faith to have a decent and beneficial conversation by providing much methodology on how we can approach religion truth. It has allowed people to learn about the beliefs and practices of people of

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other religions, making prejudice less likely to happen and lead to more peaceful coexistence. Islamic apologetics: the book has also impacted the field of Islamic apologetics: giving Muslims the intellectual ammunition they need to explain and defend their faith. "Which Religion?" by providing a richly textured and balanced analysis which has made it easier for many to hold intelligent conversation about religion.

Islam and Christianity in the Modern World just had a profound impact on Christian-Muslim relations. This consideration has led Dr. Ansari's work to investigate how Islam and Christianity have mutually shaped one another across history and theology, hence why another one of his outcomes has depicted affinities and divergences upon these religious traditions. It is a book that has done so much to get Muslims and Christians talking to each other and understanding each other, and it has helped to heal rifts and build respect. The historical examination of contemporary issues common to both religions helps to provide a way in which the two religions can work together to address these issues. So this book has received a lot of shake as it is referred by several researchers, religio-politico entities as well key policy analysts who seek to push Muslim and Christian communities to reason together. That seemed to me a very important thing in the world, what Islam and Christianity in the Modern World has done for the good will between religions, and the world closer and more peaceful. It did this through promoting rational conversation/dialogue and demonstrated how folks could collaborate and work together. Ultimately, the writings of Dr. Ansari more fully shaped the manner in which Islam comes to be understood and practiced, as well as how people from different religious perspectives come to communicate, and how Islam engages with various global religions. He has also left behind a legacy in religious, academic and social circles, which continue to include people of religion in the hope that everyone will learn, be tolerant and work together.



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### Comparative Analysis: Smith and Ansari

**Areas of Agreement:** Huston Smith as well as Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari explained that people from different religions should communicate and understand each other. They were able to see the importance of understanding and appreciating religious teachings and religious experiences that were quite different from their own.

“The World's Religions”<sup>4iv</sup> by Huston Smith in an informative and courteous manner, *The World's Religions* is an insightful written piece about religion and also highlights a number of the principal belief systems such as Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. The way Smith writes are by giving a voice to each tradition to speak in, with a corresponding highlight of spiritual wisdom and historical and modern contributions of that tradition. It provides readers with a unique and compassionate look into the fundamental beliefs and rituals of every religion. This form of writing leads the readers to look at other religions with more respect and wisdom, enabling them to understand different religious traditions better.

The term for this is the perennial philosophy, meaning that all religions in the world are but different expressions of the same metaphysical truth. Something into which Smith's work fits. This unit may also emphasize the notion that all religions are essentially the same and that they have a common set of ethics; for example, being good to others, doing what is right, and the pursuit of truth. Smith presents and interprets respectfully, with help to understand for mostly members of other faiths why they believe it is outrageous to say they are fellow Christians: even if they are wrong on doctrine, a common spirituality, and morality.

So does Ansari's "What is Islam?"<sup>v5</sup> invites everyone to learn the true Islam to establish the better relationships among the people belonging to different religions. This is why, as Ansari puts it, 'we need to take the core teachings of Islam beyond the commonsense understanding and stereotypes. For that, he says, you be knowledgeable about the premises and values of Islam if you wish to engage in genuine dialogue with the followers of other faiths. For Ansari, this meant engaging in the central tenants of the Islamic faith such as the core faith belief of Tawhid (the notion that God

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<sup>4</sup> Smith, H. (1958). *The World's religions*. Harper One.

<sup>5</sup> Ansari, F. R. (1968). *What is Islam?*. Abdul Aziz Khan, Hiz Bul Quardia, 222, G-Block Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore, Pakistan.

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is one only), prophethood, the Quran, and the norms of morality and law that form the faith as well He wants to prove that Islam as a religious philosophy is logical, ethical, and spiritual, and that it can facilitate more effective conversations between individuals of diverse faith based systems.

In his writing, Ansari emphasizes that not only Muslims but people of other major world religions, must adhere to good moral principles like kindness, fairness, and truth-seeking. He believes that drawing attention to these commonalities, can assist religious groups in working together, in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

a) **Common Ethical Principles** : Smith and Ansari both agree that Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all share basic moral principles. Some of these principles are:

- **Compassion:** Compassion is an important part of all three religions. It means understanding, being kind, and wanting to help other people. In Christianity, for example, Jesus' teachings often stress how important it is to love and care for others. In Islam, compassion is a very important part of God (Ar-Rahman) and a rule that Muslims follow when they are with other people.
- **Justice:** In all three faiths, justice is a very important thing. Tzedek, which means "justice," is one of the most important ideas in Judaism. A lot of what Jesus said and did in the Bible calls Christians to seek justice. In the same way, the Quran and Hadith show that Islam puts a lot of value on justice.
- **The Search for Truth:** All three religions tells people to look for the truth and understand things better. When Jews study the Torah and try to get wise, they are looking for the truth. In Christianity, Jesus is seen as the embodiment of truth. In Islam, seeking the truth is an important part of the faith, and the Quran is seen as the most reliable source of truth.

By bringing up these common morals, Smith, and Ansari both support a way for people of different faiths to talk to each other that is based on respect and understanding. They say that recognizing these shared values and building on them can help make the world a better place to live in peace and cooperation.

b) **Effects on Talking Between Faiths**

The writings of Smith and Ansari have done much to increase the level of conversation among people of faith in general. This open-minded, respectful approach has made religious studies easily

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accessible to the general reader, a project Smith expanded upon in "The World's Religions." It has also encouraged some to explore and appreciate the diverse religious experiences. His work has inspired many to begin talking to people of other faiths with an open mind and respect.

Especially some of the research that Ansari has done, on "What is Islam?"<sup>vi6</sup> The initiative has also been instrumental in building bridges between faith groups. By clarifying misinterpretations of the Muslim teachings Ansari has encouraged Muslims as well as people of other faiths to have a more educated and distinguished talk. His worked helped decrease racism which allowed for cooperation between people alongside creating more mutual respect for the other.

Both Dr. Fazlur Rahman Ansari and Huston Smith were ardent proponents of religious faiths and promoted understanding and respect among different religious traditions. However, they both held critical views towards atheism. Ansari and Smith believed that atheism, with its rejection of religious beliefs, failed to acknowledge the profound spiritual dimensions of human existence and overlooked the richness of religious traditions. They argued that religious faith offered valuable insights into the human condition and provided guidance for living a meaningful life. Through their works, Ansari and Smith emphasized the importance of religious faith in fostering mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation among diverse communities, while also highlighting the limitations of atheism in addressing the deeper existential questions faced by humanity.

Their works, along with countless others since, influence a world more connected than ever before. They highlight dialogue, mutual respect, and acknowledging common moral regulations as means to cultivate peaceable and positive interfaith relationships.

#### **Areas of Disagreement:**

Religious Experiences (The World Religions): Huston Smith This is one of few things that Huston Smith and I agree on. He talks about how one way or another all religions are seeking the same spiritual truths and ends. Smith focuses on parallels in awareness of the spiritual and moral elements commonly found among all religious traditions, fostering a more uniform perspective of religious experience. By highlighting these commonalities, Smith is establishing a sense of

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<sup>6</sup> Ansari, F. R. (1968). *What is Islam?*. Abdul Aziz Khan, Hiz Bul Quardia, 222, G-Block Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore, Pakistan.

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spiritual family throughout the world and teaching his readers to look beyond differences of doctrine.

Dr. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari wrote books like “Which Religion?”<sup>vii7</sup> and *Islam and Christianity in the Modern World*, which are more from an Islamic point of view. Ansari says Smith is too simplistic about the different kinds of religious faith, as if the parts of theology and history that make each expression unique are getting in the way of Smith's argument that all religions have the same core. And the fact that Islam's teachings are very different from those of Christianity makes it even more important to understand each religion on its own terms.

- **Approach to Religious Diversity:** Even in his view of things, Smith is looking at the unity of religious experience he's saying that all religious experiences are the same, that all religions would agree on their spiritual aims. By contrast, Ansari is more concerned with the details and particularities of the Islamic tradition. And he is right to say that you must see each religion in the light of its history and theology.
- **Homogenization vs. Distinctiveness:** Smith's approach of understanding religious experience can be considered as generating a more thorough understanding as well as resembling the homogenizing one, Ansari due to his emphasis on the distinctiveness of Islamic teachings. Interprets in distinct ways. In fact, Ansari says Smith might be simplifying the Testament to the variety of faith-informed expressions with an excess of focus on commonalities.
- **Depth of Understanding:** Ansari comes at each religion with a “Do Tell Me More” attitude. He says that Smith's manner of viewing things might overlook the intricate theological and historical foundations of each religion that make them singular.

These two scholars share the same ultimate goal of helping people of varying belief systems appreciate and learn about one another, but the approaches they take and some of their conclusions could not be more divergent. However, the way Smith writes about religious experiences is how they are universal for everybody, but for Ansari the Islamic tradition is what makes it unique. This disagreement demonstrates that people are clearly not agreed on the method and importance of studying religious variety, each subjecting their own but thinking their own way is the best way.

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<sup>7</sup> Ansari, M. F. (1976). *Which Religion?* Karachi: The World Federation of Islamic Missions, Islamic Centre.

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**Interfaith Dialogue:** As a proponent of inter-faith dialogue, Huston Smith had a major influence. Smith created bridges among many people of different faiths, with his landmark book "The World's Religions." His thoughtful and respectful discussion of different religions encourages people to approach those of other faiths, and that helps grow a greater tolerance of and appreciation for other belief systems. Smith encourages people of all religions to recognize that they should to keep an open mind and acknowledge the commonality of all faiths.

Dr. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari also contributed significantly to interfaith dialogues. Ansari used much of his academic work to correct popular misconceptions about Islam, focusing on its moral and spiritual dimensions. He attempted to mend relations between Muslims and other religion followers by speaking about universal values taught by all of the world's major religions: justice, mercy, humility, and the love of one's neighbor. Ansari worked to demolish racist ideas and promote openness for dialogue of ideas in an attempt to bridge Muslims and Christians and the rest of the faiths, to unite and cleanse the corruption which poisoned the lands.

And they both knew that interfaith dialogue is more than an opportunity to debate each other's religions it is a chance to form significant relationships founded on respect and appreciation of one another. Their work dealt with the question of whether people of faith can come together across religious lines and find a shared basis and common ground that values the connected world in which we now live. This has inspired meaningful conversation and collaboration between religious beliefs and has resulted in a broader acceptance of each other as fellow human beings among religious communities globally.

**Impact and Legacy:** Huston Smith's seminal work, "The World's Religions," was essential in shifting how people study religion and strive for interfaith dialogue. Smith has played a crucial role in creating religious understanding and religious appreciation by teaching millions of people about the underlying faith and spiritual meaning of the many world religions. His method, emphasizing the common human experience of religion, and the ethical values expressed in all traditions, has helped a generation of academicians and students alike learn about a variety of other religious viewpoints in a new and empathetic light. Smith's writings have achieved to inspire people of differing religious and philosophical perspectives to communicate with one another, so as to find out and respect one another better.

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This has remained to the forefront of the religions, exercises and the discourse between religion and specifically in the Islamic context due to the works of Dr. Muhammad Fazlur Rahman Ansari. Most of Ansari's academic work was focused on the intellectual and spiritual dimensions of Islam. It helped the the Muslims and non-Muslims to know Islam in depth and by various dimensions. It provided a necessary corrective to a dominant polemical view and helped to ensure that what he had to say about the defining elements of Islam did not get overlooked or distorted

These works of Ansari's, remain relevant in the global world where religious communities must coexist and respect each other more than ever. They also offer some hope for peace in a world where friction and worse between religions is all too common. We could heed the importance of working hard to value things like even understanding or perhaps respect and talking to one another and we could be like Smith and Ansari and live a legacy encouraging all of us together across all religious people and groups to bring us together a little more peace and great harmony. The world is a more open place, a place where it is possible to celebrate and love differences, to see and value, for what they are, the humanity and value of every human.

## References

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<sup>i</sup> Smith, H. (1958). *The World's religions*. Harper One.

<sup>ii</sup> Hutchison, W. R. (2013). *The modernist impulse in American Protestantism*. Oxford University Press.

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<sup>iv</sup> Smith, H. (1958). *The World's religions*. Harper One.

<sup>v</sup> Ansari, F. R. (1968). *What is Islam?*. Abdul Aziz Khan, Hiz Bul Quardia, 222, G-Block Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore, Pakistan.

<sup>vi</sup> Ansari, F. R. (1968). *What is Islam?*. Abdul Aziz Khan, Hiz Bul Quardia, 222, G-Block Gulshan-e-Ravi, Lahore, Pakistan.

<sup>vii</sup> Ansari, M. F. (1976). *Which Religion?* Karachi: The World Federation of Islamic Missions, Islamic Centre.