Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III, asks 'What have we forgotten in Islam?'

"[A]t the end of the 17th century and beginning of the 18th, the European Renaissance rapidly advanced in knowledge of nature, namely all those very Ayats of God to which the Qur'an refers when Muslims forgot the Ayats, namely natural phenomenon, its law and order which are the proofs of divine guidance used in the Qur'an, but we stuck to our rites and ceremonies, to our prayers and fast alone, forgetting the other half of our faith. Thus during those 200/300 years, Europe and the West got an advance out of all proportion to the Muslim world and we found everywhere in Islam (inspite of our humble prayer, our moral standard, our kindliness and gentleness towards the poor) constant deterioration of one form or another and the Muslim world went down. Why? Because we forgot the law and order of nature to which the Qur'an refers as proof of God’s existence and we went against God’s natural laws. This and this alone has led to the disastrous consequences we have seen."

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III’s 1952 letter ‘What have we forgotten in Islam?’ (Karachi, Pakistan)

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