"I think we are experiencing a time of, in a sense, the search for a legitimacy in interpretation of Islam in relation to the modern world, in relation to modern society, in relation to non-Muslim societies and in that search there are all sorts of interpretations being put forward. I personally am very cautious about seeking a formalistic approach, because I think that one of the great risks is the fact that it tends to anchor a faith in one time and that is one aspect which, of my faith which I would never accept. I would never accept that the concept of Islam, the practice of Islam, cannot be fulfilled in the modern world or in the world of tomorrow."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1989 All India TV and Radio Interview with Rajiv Mehrotra (India)

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"I apprehend that in certain educational institutions respect for tradition has restricted academic study to the accomplishment of the past. However, our faith has never been restricted to one place or time. Ever since its revelation the fundamental concepts of Islam have been its universality and the fact that this is the last revelation, constantly valid, and not petrified into one period of man's history or confined to one area of the world. Islam is for all places and all time. This is why there is a role for a modern Islamic university which can draw inspiration from the faith and from the past in addressing the opportunities of the future."

1985 Faculty of Health Sciences of the Aga Khan University and Aga Khan University Hospital Inauguration Ceremony (Karachi, Pakistan)

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"The past cannot be repeated. By copying it, it proves that one cannot do better. By repeating the past, by designing the same thing is not the solution. Modernity cannot be denied. How do we merge the two? That is continuity. We can't ask people to live in mud houses. We have
to come up with new solutions. The [Aga Khan Award for Architecture] tries to connect the two. The monuments of the past are important but the monuments of today are also important and they have to be recognised."

His Highness the Aga Khan's 2004 Times of India Interviews 'Celebrating Beauty' & 'Education has not kept pace with globalisation' (New Delhi, India)

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