Excerpt: His Highness the Aga Khan on the privileged position in which Islam places an individual, in any society, in any time

by NANOWISDOMS ARCHIVE

Paksitan Television: You have known the best of the Occident and the orient -- such has been your background, your education and upbringing. What have you discovered to be the best in the field of education?

Aga Khan: I think in terms of, let us say, the philosophical environment in which an individual lives, there is no doubt that the faith of Islam places the individual in society in the world in which he lives, in a position where he is not in conflict with his time and he is not in conflict with science and technology of his time. The eternal values of Islam are such that whether the man lived a hundred years ago or lives a hundred years from now, he is always in his correct position. There is no conflict. So in terms of the humanistic, permanent values of a faith, I would say that obviously Islam puts an individual in a very privileged position.

In the Occident what I have found challenging and interesting is the concept of change; and the acceptance that the world does evolve, society evolves, man himself evolves. The concept of the static individual in a static society, in a static civilisation is totally in conflict with Western philosophy.

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1985 Pakistan Television Corporation Interview (Karachi, Pakistan)

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