Excerpts: Their Highnesses the Aga Khans III and IV on miracles in Islam

"The Prophet himself never claimed any miracle of any sort. The only miracle which you have in Islam is the Qur'an."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1986 CBC Interview (1st) with Roy Bonisteel (Canada)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/3268/

Rajiv Mehrotra: Spirituality, or the religion or the faith is frequently threatened by technology. You have a passion and a great interest in technology. How have you managed to reconcile that?

Aga Khan: Well, from the moment that I am not willing to say that the faith of Islam is of a particular time, when I have to search within Islam what are the elements which allow me to interpret within the modern world and my interpretation is that Allah’s message and His power is not limited. And in fact that modern science simply allows us to discover more and more of the miracles that He has performed, perhaps continues to perform, and we are blessed with the faculty of intelligence. And I cannot understand why we would be blessed with that faculty unless we were mandated to use it.

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1989 All India TV and Radio Interview with Rajiv Mehrotra (India)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/4296/
"God has given us the miracle of life with all its attributes: the extraordinary manifestations of sunrise and sunset, of sickness and recovery, of birth and death, but surely if He has given us the means with which to remove ourselves from this world so as to go to other parts of the Universe, we can but accept as further manifestations the creation and destructions of stars, the birth and death of atomic particles, the flitting new sound and light waves."

His Highness the Aga Khan’s 1963 Presidential Address at the First Anniversary of Mindanao University (Manilla, Philippines)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/1364/

"Ruling out the atheist, with whom a believer can no more argue than he can discuss colour with a blind man, it is surely strange that a believer in an omnipotent and ever-present Deity should fail to realise that how we stand this instant and every instant toward Him matters to us more than anything else in the universe.

"That is the fundamental question:- Are you in harmony with God? If you are -- you are happy.

"Next I would place appreciation and enjoyment of the glories of nature. All those sunrises and sunsets -- all the intricate miracle of sky colour, from dawn to dusk. All that splendid spend-thrift beauty.... As a very rich man treasures the possession of some unique picture, so a man should treasure and exult in the possession -- his individual possession -- of the sights of this unique world.

"Those glories are his from dawn to dusk, and then -- and then comes night -- 'a night of stars -- all eyes.' The fact that Mr. So-and-So has weighed Orion in a scale and mapped beyond a peradventure the path of the Pleiades does not destroy their magic. I look up at night and I know -- I know the glory of the stars. It is then that the stars speak to us -- and the sense of that mystery is in our blood."
"Islam is fundamentally a natural religion. All its dogmas and doctrines of whatever sect or school, are ultimately based on the regularity and order of natural phenomena, on the natural inclination of human beings for survival and reproduction, while the religion of the West, Christianity, is based on a miraculous event and faith in miracles, that is to say, a break in that very regularity to which the Holy Qur’an refers on a thousand occasions."

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III’s 1954 article ‘This I have learned from life’ published in Dawn (Karachi, Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/10240/

"When you think, your thought becomes an idea. When God thinks, His thought becomes creation."

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III’s answer to Sardu Jetha’s question ‘What is the purpose of Creation?’ put to the Imam in Canes, March 1957, documented in ‘Subjects Discussed by the Religious Study Group of Mombasa,’ 1960, pp 21

"Islam is fundamentally in its very nature a natural religion. Throughout the Qur’an God’s signs (Ayats) are referred to as the natural phenomenon, the law and order of the universe, the exactitudes and consequences of the relations between natural phenomenon in cause and effect. Over and over, the stars, sun, moon, earthquakes, fruits of the earth and trees are mentioned as the signs of Divine power, Divine law and Divine order...."
"If again we look upon Islamic principles as only rites and ceremonies and forget the real Ayats of God’s natural phenomenon, then not only Europe but China and India will go so far ahead of us that either we will become like North Africa, humble protectorates or we may have like Turkey to throw over much that is most valuable and precious in our mental outlook. To avoid this, what are we to do? Any fool can tell you of the disease but what is the remedy, how are we to save both teaching of Islam, knowledge of nature and our daily Islamic life of kindliness, gentleness and prayers? If the present method by which the Ulema being brought up on one line of studies and the scientific youth on a different one continues, then disaster will come because there will be a fundamental misunderstanding in the outlook of intellect and faith in the soul of the nation. We must learn from our enemies what saved Christianity for Europe. It was the fact that, as the universities at the time of the Renaissance and centuries that followed went forward with natural studies, at the same time, the same universities had faculties of divinity in which the priesthood was trained. The atmosphere of science permeated the atmosphere of Christian divinity studies and the atmosphere of the Christian divinity students permeated the atmosphere of the scientific studies; thus both grew and developed together. Christianity adapted itself to science, though it is anything but a natural religion being based on fundamental irrational principles which are the break up of natural law and order, while science accepted these extraordinary miracles as temporary breaks of the natural law of the universe.

"Alas, Islam, which is a natural religion in which God’s miracles are the very law and order of nature, drifted away and still drifting away, even in Pakistan, from science which is the study of those very laws and orders of nature."

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III’s 1952 letter to H.E. Dr. Zahid Husain, President of Arabiyyah Jamiyyat, 'What have we forgotten in Islam?' (Karachi, Pakistan) http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/1253/

"Islam is essentially a natural religion, the miracles quoted in the
Qur'an are the great phenomena surrounding us and we are often
told that all these manifestations can be used and should be, with
intelligence, for the service of man. Let us never forget that in the
struggle for existence of the future only those will survive who
control the forces of nature to the greatest extent."

Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah, Aga Khan III's 1950 broadcast message on
Radio Pakistan, ‘Build up that free Islamic state mentality’ (Karachi,
Pakistan)
http://www.nanowisdoms.org/nwblog/10452/

See also: Their Highnesses the Aga Khans III and IV on the continuous,
limitless nature of Creation and man’s relationship to Creation
https://www.facebook.com/notes/nanowisdoms-archive-of-imamat-speeches-
interviews-and-writings/their-highnesses-the-aga-khans-iii-and-iv-on-the-
continuous-limitless-nature-of-/565605553457633

See also: Their Highnesses the Aga Khans III and IV on secularism and
Islam’s reconciliation with it
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