

# Fears and Smears

‘From a purely academic point of view, this translation is superior to anything produced by orientalists in the way of translations of major Islamic works.” Taha Jabir al-Alwani was writing about *Reliance of the Traveller*, the English version of *Umdat al-Salik*, the classic manual of sharia (“Islamic Sacred Law,” as the cover of *Reliance* puts it). Alwani is no lightweight in these matters. His specialty is *fiqh* – Islamic jurisprudence. In fact, he has been a member of the Islamic Fiqh Academy in Saudi Arabia and is renowned among orientalist scholars in the West as president of the Fiqh Council of North America.

More significant, he was writing in his capacity as president of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT). Headquartered in Virginia, IIIT is an Islamist think tank created by the Muslim Brotherhood in the early 1980s.

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