

*Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad* [ahmad@minaret.org] was born in 1948 at sea to Palestinian refugee parents and raised in Pennsylvania. He graduated *cum laude* from Harvard in 1970, and obtained a Ph.D in 1975 from the University of Arizona in astronomy and astrophysics. He is a senior lecturer at the University of Maryland, College Park, teaching honors courses on religion and progress, and religion, science, and freedom. He has also taught at Georgetown University and the Johns Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC. Dr. Ahmad is a frequent guest lecturer on Islam at the Foreign Services Institute and an adjunct lecturer for the Joint Special Operations University's Middle East Orientation Course. He also teaches a class on comparative religion to summer interns at the International Institute of Islamic Thought, VA. He is currently president of the Minaret of Freedom Institute, an Islamic think-tank based in the Metropolitan Washington, DC area. Dr. Ahmad is an internationally sought-after speaker on matters relating to Islam and Muslims. He is author of *Signs in the Heavens* and *The Islamic Rules of Order*, co-editor of *Islam and the West: A Dialogue*, and co-author of *Islam and the Discovery of Freedom*. He has been involved in interfaith dialogue for decades, most recently co-presenting at the University of Maryland, College Park on "The Prophets in the Abrahamic Tradition." Dr. Ahmad has received the "Star Cup for Outstanding Public Service" award from the Montgomery County Civic Federation, the "Champion of Democracy Award" from Marylanders for Democracy, the "Samuel P. Chase Freedom Award" from the Libertarian Party of Maryland, and the "Sentinel Award" from the Montgomery County Civic Federation.