Secularism & the World of Islam

Dr. Abdulkarim Sorouss

Dr. Abdolkarim Sorouss is a leading Iranian philosopher and reformist thinker. He taught at Tehran University and the Iranian Academy of Philosophy, and published on a variety of topics, including the philosophy of science, political philosophy, Sufism, and modern Islamic theology. Since 2000 he has been a Visiting Professor at Harvard and Princeton Universities, teaching courses in Islam and Democracy, Quranic Studies, Islamic Political Philosophy, and the Philosophy of Islamic Law. Dr. Sorouss is also a scholar in residence at Yale University.

Dr. Sorouss’s main contribution to Islamic theology includes a sharp distinction between religion as divine revelation and religion as interpretation of scriptures which is shaped by socio-political factors. In 2004 Dr. Sorouss was awarded, along with Sadik al-Azm and Fatema Mernissi, the prestigious Erasmus Prize for his important contributions to the debate on religion and modernity. In 2005 he was selected by the Time Magazine among 100 influential people. His publications in English include Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam (2000) and The Expansion of Prophetic Experience (2009).