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Traditional Forms of Care and the Challenges of Modern Society: Islamic Spiritual Care as an Emerging Field from Germany

The term 'Islamic spiritual care' is used to describe the support services and educational courses that have been developed over the past few decades to help Muslims in crisis situations, especially when traditional spiritual care provided by family and communities is not able to provide enough support. The work and services provided by Muslim practitioners have been widely well received. Islamic spiritual care can often reach more people and contribute more to 'strengthening the subject' (Schleiermacher) than imams and academic discourse.

Islamic spiritual care could mark a paradigm shift in how tradition is approached and is likely to bring about a qualitative transformation within Muslim communities in the coming years, reshaping their institutional structures, self-understanding, and its field of responsibility. This allows us the prospective opening of a new field of research and profession.

This contribution examines Islamic spiritual care in the German context, exploring the challenges and potential of this emerging practice. It focuses on two key questions: 1) the academic and social added value and implications of establishing Islamic spiritual care for Muslim communities and Islamic theology, and 2) the relationship of Islamic spiritual care as an independent theological discipline to other theological fields such as *Fiqh*, Qur'anic studies, and Hadith studies, with particular attention to questions of text-hermeneutical methodology.



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Dr Mahmoud Abdallah is an academic staff member at the Center for Islamic Theology (ZITh), University of Tübingen, Germany. He studied Islamic theology, Arabic, and German at Al-Azhar University in Egypt and completed his PhD at Heinrich Heine University in Germany. His academic background bridges classical Islamic and modern studies. His main areas of interest are: Islamic Practical Theology, Pastoral Care, Theology of Coexistence, Interreligious Dialogue, and Spirituality and Ethics. His authorship includes a seminal work: *Islamische Seelsorgelehre: Theologische Grundlegung und Perspektiven in einer pluralistischen Gesellschaft*.

Other research and co-edited publications include *Religiöse Institutionen in Krisenzeiten. Ethik-Theologie-Praxis*. He has been a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Marmara (Turkey), Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina), and St. Andrews (Scotland). Abdallah is a Co-founder and board member of the International Association for Spiritual Care (IASC), and Co-founder as well as co-editor of the book series Theology of Coexistence. Christian and Muslim contributions.