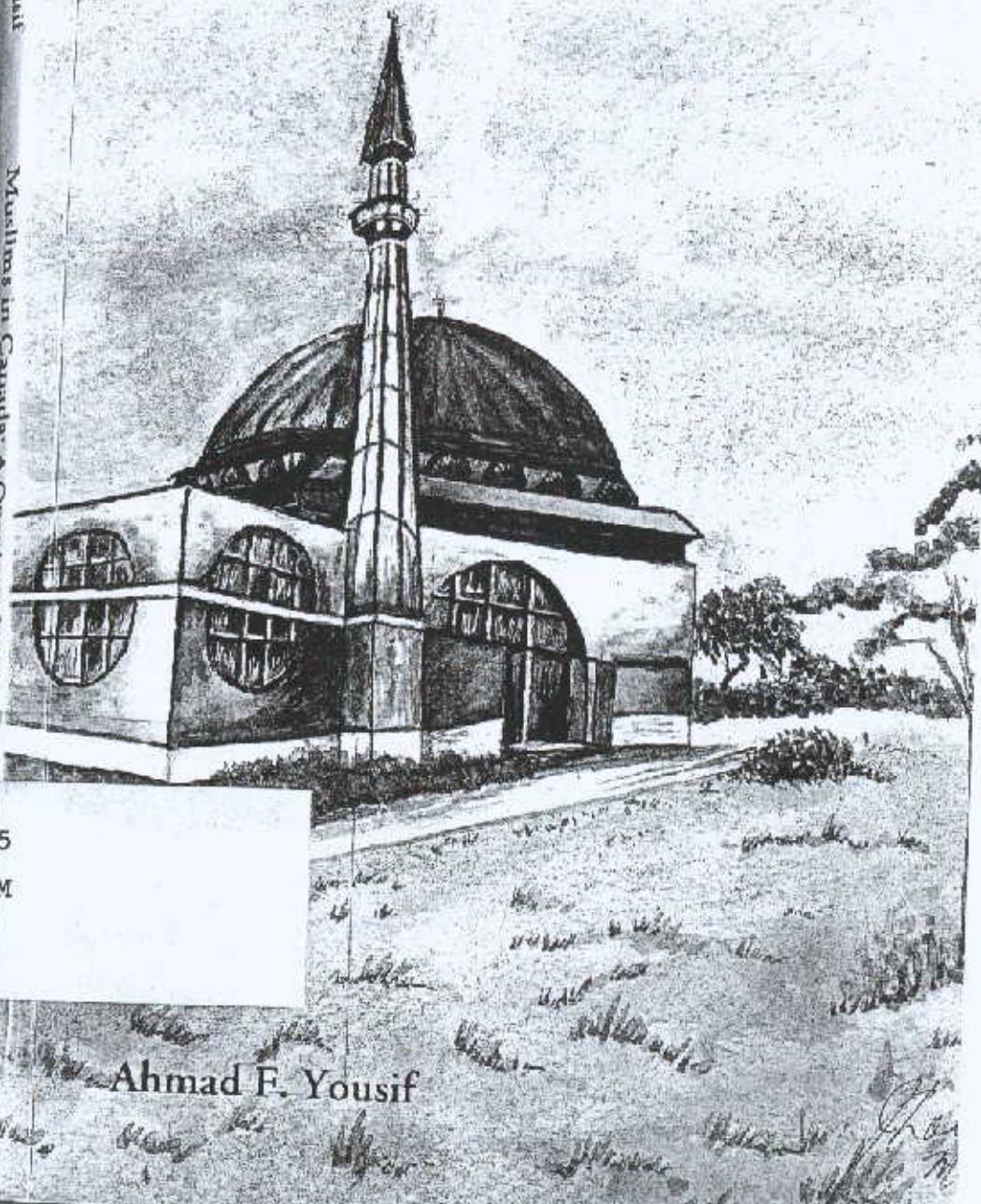


Muslims in Canada

A Question of Identity



Ahmad F. Yousif

LIBRARY
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

Muslims in Canada: a Question of Identity

by

Ahmad F. Yousif



New York

Ottawa

Toronto

262381

© 1993 LEGAS

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form, by print, photoprint, microfilm, microphiche, or any other means, without written permission from the publisher.

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Yousif, Ahmad F., 1953-

Muslims in Canada: A Question of Identity

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-921252-27-7

1. Muslims — Canada — Social life and customs.
2. Muslims — National Capital Region (Ont. and Québec) — Case studies.
3. Muslims — Ethnic identity. I. Title.

FC 106.M9Y68 1993 305.6'97071 C93-090481-8
F1035.M9Y68 1993

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Multiculturalism Sector, Canadian Heritage Canada.

For further information about the series and for orders:

LEGAS

P.O. Box 040328
Brooklyn, N.Y.
11204-0002

P.O. Box 162, Stn A
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 8T9

2908 Dufferin St.
Toronto, Ontario
M6B 3S8

Printed and bound in Canada IN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Copy no. 281585

Date: 1-2-93 (C) 1993

1035
m27
V.80M

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Preface..... | 9 |
| Introduction..... | 11 |
| History of Islam..... | 11 |
| Muslim Community in North America..... | 12 |
| Muslim Community in the Canadian National Capital Region (C.N.C.R.)..... | 16 |
| Immigration Factors..... | 17 |
| Ethnic Community Relations..... | 18 |
| Canadian Social Values..... | 21 |
| Methodology and Techniques..... | 26 |
| Thesis..... | 27 |

Chapter 1: The Five Pillars

| | |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction..... | 29 |
| The Five Pillars and the Research Sample | |
| 1. Shahadah (Religious Testimony)..... | 31 |
| 2. Salat (Prayer)..... | 32 |
| a) The Five Daily Prayers..... | 33 |
| b) Friday-Noon-Prayer..... | 35 |
| c) Taraweeh Prayers..... | 38 |
| d) Id Prayers..... | 38 |
| e) Funeral Prayers..... | 41 |
| f) Community Perspective on Prayers..... | 41 |
| 3. Zakah (Islamic Alms-Fee)..... | 42 |
| 4. Ramadan (the Fasting Month)..... | 45 |
| 5. The Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)..... | 49 |
| Conclusion..... | 51 |

Chapter 2: Psycho-social Problems and Lifestyles of the Muslim Community in the National Capital Region

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Introduction..... | 55 |
| Problems and Research Sample..... | 57 |
| Drinking Alcohol..... | 59 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Dietary Restrictions..... | 61 |
| Mixed Marriage..... | 62 |
| Bank Interest..... | 64 |
| Premarital Sex..... | 67 |
| The Celebration of Christmas..... | 68 |
| Women Working Outside the House..... | 69 |
| Losing Identity and Faith..... | 71 |
| The Canadian Media..... | 72 |
| Discrimination and Racism..... | 74 |
| Conclusion: An Approach to Islamic Identity..... | 76 |

Chapter 3: Community Institutional Completeness

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction..... | 83 |
| Background: An Overview of the MuslimCommunity..... | 85 |
| The First Muslims in the National Capital Region..... | 86 |
| The Ottawa Muslim Association..... | 88 |
| The Ottawa Mosque..... | 90 |
| Islamic Schools in the National Capital Region..... | 103 |
| Other Factors..... | 109 |
| Institutional Completeness and Islamic Identity..... | 111 |

Chapter 4: The Political Aspects of Islamic Identity

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction..... | 115 |
| Islamic Identity: The Model..... | 117 |
| The <i>Ummah</i> : Political Analysis..... | 119 |
| Muslim Minority: The Research Sample..... | 121 |
| Islamic Identity: A Canadian Situation..... | 123 |
| Conclusion..... | 125 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Conclusion..... | 126 |
| Recapitulation..... | 130 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Bibliography..... | 132 |
|-------------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Figures, Tables, Photographs..... | 141 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|