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Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr, one of the world's leading experts on   
Islamic science and spirituality, is University Professor of Islamic   
Studies at George Washington University. Professor Nasr is the authour of   
numerous books including Man and Nature: the Spiritual Crisis of Modern Man   
(Kazi Publications, 1998), Religion and the Order of Nature (Oxford, 1996)   
and Knowledge and the Sacred (SUNY, 1989).

Introduction   
Seyyed Hossein Nasr, currently University Professor of Islamic Studies at   
the George Washington University, Washington D. C. is one of the most   
important and foremost scholars of Islamic, Religious and Comparative   
Studies in the world today. Author of over fifty books and five hundred   
articles which have been translated into several major Islamic, European   
and Asian languages, Professor Nasr is a well known and highly respected   
intellectual figure both in the West and the Islamic world. An eloquent   
speaker with a charismatic presence, Nasr is a much sought after speaker at   
academic conferences and seminars, university and public lectures and also   
radio and television programs in his area of expertise. Possesor of an   
impressive academic and intellectual record, his career as a teacher and   
scholar spans over four decades.

Born in 1933, Professor Nasr began his illustrious teaching career in 1955   
when he was still a young and promising, doctoral student at Harvard   
University. Over the years, he has taught and trained an innumerable number   
of students who have come from the different parts of the world, and many   
of whom have become important and prominent scholars in their fields of   
study.

He has trained different generations of students over the years since 1958   
when he was a professor at Tehran University and then, in America since the   
Iranian revolution in 1979, specifically at Temple University in   
Philadelphia from 1979 to 1984 and at the George Washington University   
since 1984 to the present day. The range of subjects and areas of study   
which Professor Nasr has involved and engaged himself with in his academic   
career and intellectual life are immense. As demonstrated by his numerous   
writings, lectures and speeches, Professor Nasr speaks and writes with   
great authority on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from philosophy to   
religion to spirituality, to music and art and architecture, to science and   
literature, to civilizational dialogues and the natural environment.

For Professor Seyyed Hossein Nasr, the quest for knowledge, specifically   
knowledge which enables man to understand the true nature of things and   
which furthermore, " liberates and delivers him from the fetters and   
limitations of earthly existence," has been and continues to be the central   
concern and determinant of his intellectual life.

Brief Biography   
Seyyed Hossein Nasr was born on April 7, 1933 (19 Farvadin 1312 A. H. solar)   
in Tehran into a family of distinguished scholars and physicians. His   
father, Seyyed Valiallah, a man of great learning and piety, was a   
physician to the Iranian royal family, as was his father before him. The   
name " Nasr" which means `" victory" comes from the title " na~r al-aibb   
(Victory of Physicians) which was conferred on Professor Nasrs grandfather   
by the King of Persia. Nasr also comes from a family of Sufis. One of his   
ancestors was Mulla Seyyed Muhammad Taqi Poshtmashhad, who was a famous   
saint of Kashan, and his mausoleum which is located next to the tomb of the   
Safavid king Shah Abbis, is still visited by pilgrims to this day.

As a young boy, Nasr attended one of the schools near his home. His early   
formal education included the usual Persian curriculum at school with an   
extra concentration in Islamic and Persian subjects at home, as well as   
tutorial in French. However for Nasr, it was the long hours of discussion   
with his father, mostly on philosophical and theological issues,   
complemented by both reading and reaction to the discourses carried on by   
those who came to his fathers house, that constituted an essential aspect   
of his early education and which in many ways set the pattern and tone of   
his intellectual development. This was the situation for the first twelve   
years of Nasrs life.

Nasrs arrival in America at the young age of twelve marked the beginning   
of a new period in his life which was totally different and therefore,   
discontinuous from his early life in Iran. He attended The Peddie School in   
Highstown, New Jersey and in 1950 graduated as the valedictorian of his   
class and also winner of the Wyclifte Award which was the schools highest   
honor given to the most outstanding all-round student. It was during the   
four years at Peddie that Nasr acquired his knowledge of the English   
language, as well as studying the sciences, American