

## Muslim Ethics: Emerging Vistas

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 17 June 2008 14:13 - Last Updated Wednesday, 17 September 2008 14:23

---

Sajoo, Aryn B. (2004) *Muslim Ethics: Emerging Vistas*. New York: I.B. Tauris Publishers in association with The Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Although this book is not directly related with business ethics or Islamic Work Ethic, it would still help to understand Islamic perspective. Here is an excerpt from the books flap:

“ ‘Why should we act ethically?’ is a question readily ignored today in favour of asking what is ethics and how it is applied, which leaves out vast areas of human motivation that concern the nature of moral action and commitment. Responding coherently to these interlocking lines of inquiry requires us to consider conceptions of the ‘good’ in domains public and private, traditional and modern.

Ultimately, this inquiry is tied to individual as well as collective senses of the Self. In Muslim societies where the prevalence of the secular has played itself out so differently than in Europe and North America, the interplay of reason and faith has yielded and continues to yield richly complex ideas of the ‘good’, far beyond the poles of contention that dominate public debate. Neither a rigid orthodoxy about ethics as a timeless body of sacred rules, nor a discourse that reduces the why, how and what of ethics to ‘rationalist’ norms of ‘appropriate’ behaviour can begin to reflect the larger reality. Yet such polar reduction is rife, especially in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001.

This volume ranges over challenges from civic governance to biomedicine and the environment, through which Muslim ethical frameworks have emerged and are unfolding in our time. Civility, human rights, pluralism and humane action are key themes, mindful of the globalized context in which they increasingly demand the attention of Muslims—including those of the diaspora in the West, and all their fellow citizens. Normative sources such as scriptural texts are joined on the analytical canvas by lived settings and cultural expressions, from novels to fine art, in which diverse moral understandings and intuitions are embedded.”