Islam and Ecology

Environmental Values as Faith-Based Stewardship

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The teachings of Islam place great emphasis upon humankind’s stewardship of the Earth. Islam understands the Earth to be subservient to humankind, but it should not be administered and exploited irresponsibly. Islamic teachings include a strong sense of the goodness and purity of the Earth. Water has the highest meaning and value in the Qur’anic worldview, as indicated in the frequently quoted verse of Allah: “We made from water every living thing (21:30).” This lecture presents a review and interpretation of how the authoritative contents of the Qur’an, Islam’s holy scripture, and the teachings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad have provided a foundation for understanding the tradition’s environmental values as they may be applied in a wide range of faith-based stewardship.