

BOOK REVIEW BY HARFIYAH HALEEM

GREEN DEEN: WHAT ISLAM TEACHES ABOUT PROTECTING THE PLANET by Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, Berrett-Koehler Publishers Inc. San Francisco 2010 ISBN 978-1-60509-464-9 , p/b 232 pp.

Ibrahim Abdul-Matin is an American Muslim living in Brooklyn. His ancestry is mixed African, Cherokee, Arapahoe, and Sioux. His parents were also Muslims and taught him love of Allah's creation by taking him on frequent visits and camping trips. He has spent much of his life working with local young people in youth centres and Outward Bound courses, and helping to set up the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment . All this experience and his deep connection with Islam and the environment helps to make his book clear, easy to read, balanced and convincing.

After a foreword by the first Muslim congressman, Keith Ellison, the chapters are grouped into parts on Waste, Watts, Water and Food. Each part gives an explanation of why the subject is important, followed by chapters where various aspects are discussed in a clear, common-sense way, with quotations from Qur'an, Hadith and other Islamic writings neatly woven in, and examples of named Muslims who are trying to live a Green Deen in America and help others to do so. In Part I on Waste there are sections on Green Muslims and Green Mosques, mentioning IFEES's website campaign. Other helpful websites are also named in other chapters.

In spite of his considerable efforts to study Islam, he is happy to admit that scholars have helped with his Islamic research (p.155). In a chapter on vegetarian \ vegan Muslims, he mentions Qur'an 25:63. Instead of translating *hawnan* as 'humbly', as most do, his unusual but still valid, green interpretation, echoing a much-quoted Native American saying, is:
"The servants of the All-Merciful are they who walk upon the ground lightly."

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