



ASK International Conference 2007
South Africa
April 27-29

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“Gnostics and Politics” – Introduction

by

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This 8th International Gathering on *Gnosis and Politics* was indeed an unparalleled opportunity for participants to listen to the sound from which harmony emanates, in the splendid setting of the Rasooli Centre in Pretoria.

Seldom, if ever, has such a programme been unfolded in a Muslim community centre set-up, where scholars and practitioners from various backgrounds came together to grapple with the need to tap into the higher summits of knowledge, yet work out a creative way to deal with daily realities of politics. The politics of self-management, public politics and as well as divine politics were joyfully explored.

This 2-day experience was as the great African writer Ben Okri describes:

“... living is the place of secular miracles. It is where amazing things can be done in consciousness and in history. Living ought to be the unfolding masterpiece of the loving spirit. And dying ought to set this masterpiece free. Set it free to enrich the world. A good life is the masterwork of magic intelligence that dwells in us. Faced with the enormity of this thought, of the Damascene perception, failure, despair, unhappiness, seemed a small thing, a gross missing of the point of it all.”

Amazing indeed was the ability to hear of the masterpieces of Gnosis, defined as sincere seekers of knowledge, the enlightened leaders and, Politics as “how best to relate to people for sustained goodness”.

Human sciences scholars, scientists and politicians engaged and articulated the variations of the Higher light (*nur ala nur*). Listeners were able to swim along with the great sages in Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Muslim thought, as well as in classical and quantum theory physics.

Our profound thanks to the passionate organizers in the Academy of Self-knowledge for bringing this all together and for breaking new ground in this annual banquet of

hearts and minds. Aluta continua! May it continue and allow us all to travel on this radiant spiritual and intellectual journey!