

THE BOULDER SCHOOL
for
Students of The URANTIA Book
1622 - 18th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302

August 2, 1985

Fred Denny
Department of Religious Studies
University of Colorado
Campus Box 292
Boulder, CO 80309-0292

Dear Professor Denny,

By way of introduction, I spoke with you about a year and a half ago at the reception following a lecture on Gnosticism in Old Main. Prior to that I enjoyed your talk on the history of Islam at the First United Methodist Church several years ago. I am currently on the staff of the Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book (see enclosed brochure).

One of the educational objectives of our school is to provide students with an introduction to the varieties of religious experience and their associated cultural phenomena. To this end, I was wondering if we might be able to engage you as a speaker on the topic of Islamic history and culture.

We usually hold our seminars here, at our School, for two consecutive evenings, usually a Thursday and Friday, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.. For your time and preparation, we can offer you a \$400.00 honorarium.

The ideal dates for us (I hope it is not too short of a notice) would be in the end of September or the first part of October - say September 19 & 20, 26 & 27, or October 3 & 4.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call me sometime for further information or if you have any questions.

Peace and Blessings,

Steve Rohrbach
School: 443-8154
Home: 440-3353

The Boulder School for Students of THE URANTIA BOOK

Lectures on Islam for December 5 & 6, 1985

Frederick M. Denny, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
University of Colorado, Boulder

Topic:

ISLAM AND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Session I: "The Origins of Islam and a Survey of its Basic Beliefs and Institutions."

- The Near Eastern context
- The Abrahamic traditions of Judaism and Christianity
- Arabia
- Muhammad and the establishment of the Ummah ("Community")
- The Qur'ān as Revelation and Scripture
- Basic Islamic doctrines and practices; the Islamic life-cycle
- Islam as both religion and government; Shī'īs and Sunnīs
- The spread of Islam

Session II: "The Islamic Revival and its Significance for Humankind"

- Issues and trends in Islamic reform in the modern period
- Islam and other religions
- Islam and Western values and lifestyles
- Islam and politics
- Men, women, children, marriage and the family in Islam today
- Islam in North America: a perennial outsider or emerging partner in a pluralistic society?

Bio-Data

Frederick M. Denny Born 1939 in Burlington, Vermont

Current address: 6397 Starling Court Longmont, Colorado 80501 (303)530-4066

Education: A.B., College of William and Mary (1961); B.D., Andover Newton Theological School (1965); M.A., University of Chicago (1969); Ph.D., University of Chicago (1974).

Professional positions: Instructor in Religion, Colby-Sawyer College (1964-67); Yale College (1971-72); University of Virginia (1972-78);

University of Colorado (1978 -), chairperson of Religious Studies at CU 1982-84. Visiting Professor, Islamic State University, Surabaya, Ind-

Fields of teaching and research: Islamic studies, comparative religion (myth, ritual, methods and theories, symbolism), Christianity, mysticism and the devotional life, religion and literature. (84-85).

Professional travel for research and lecturing: Egypt (1½ years), Jordan, Turkey, Yemen, Israel and West Bank, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia (9 months), England, Mexico, Canada and Australia.

Selected publications: AN INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM (Macmillan, 1985); ISLAMIC RITUAL PRACTICES, with Abdulaziz A. Sachedina (Yale Divinity School Paul Vieth Center, 1983); numerous articles on Islam and the Qur'ān in scholarly journals, reference works and books. Currently finishing a book, ISLAM AND THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, to be published by Harper and Row in 1986. Co-edited (with Rodney L. Taylor of CU) THE HOLY BOOK IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE, to appear in October 1985 from the University of South Carolina Press. General editor of the new series, "Studies in Comparative Religion," for the University of South Carolina Press.

Fellowships and Grants: National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship(1976-77); Fulbright Islamic Civilization Research Fellowship (1984-85); University of Colorado Faculty Fellowship (1984-85) and Grant-In-Aid (1980, 1984-85). NDEA Title VI Arabic Fellowship, University of Chicago (1968-71); Center for Arabic Studies Abroad Fellowship, American University in Cairo (1969-70).

Family status: Married to Alexandra Ivanoff Denny. One son (Joshua, age 15), one daughter (Sydney, age 13).

Pastimes: Music, photography(have published many photos of Islamic subjects), white-water canoeing, skiing.

Religious affiliation: First Congregational Church, Boulder.