

Saleem Ahmed, Ph.D.

Born in India, raised in Pakistan; and has been living in Hawaii since 40+ years.

Obtained an M.S. degree in geology from the University of Karachi in 1961 and a Ph.D. in Soil Science from the University of Hawaii in 1965.

Taught geology at the University of Karachi and then worked as an agronomist and contributed to the research and development leading to Pakistan's *Green Revolution* in the late 1960s. Then, he directed the international agriculture program at the East-West Center, Honolulu, seeking alternatives to synthetic pesticides. This identified South Asia's *neem tree* as a promising plant with non-toxic pest control properties. He introduced this "wonder tree" into Hawaii's ecosystem, triggering the development of a neem-based industry.

Being dismayed by how extremists were unwittingly maligning Islam by their incomplete knowledge of the religion (not knowing that the "reactive" Qur'anic verses they quote were superseded by "proactive" verses they apparently do not know), he spent three decades in researching the religion. This led to his publishing the following books on Islam: *Beyond Veil and Holy War: Islamic Teachings and Muslim Practices with Biblical Comparisons* (2002) and *Islam: A Religion of Peace?* (2008). Both have been published by Moving Pen, Honolulu. Now, he is completing his third book, *The Four Contrasting Phases of Muhammad's Ministry and their Contemporary Implications*.

Based on several Qur'anic passages affirming that God sent messengers to all nations, Ahmed founded the Honolulu-based non-profit organization, All Believers Network (2002), exploring the converging paths of religion ([www.AllBelieversNetwork.net](http://www.AllBelieversNetwork.net)). It has had individuals from the following religions on its board: Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Daoism, Hawaiian Spirituality, Hinduism, Indigenous Religions, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Mormonism, Seicho-No Ie, Subud, Sikhism, Sufism, Sukyo Mahikari, Unitarian Universalism, Unity, and Zoroastrianism. Others are invited.

He also founded another non-profit, *Milun* (which, in several South Asian languages means "gathering of people"), which marvels at how religions use songs and dances to connect with, and honor, the Divinity. Currently, promoting interfaith dialog is his main mission in life.

He is married to Carol (aka Yasmin) who is a third-generation Japanese living in Hawaii. They have two daughters and a grandson.