

2012-13 Hildale Lecture in the Division of Arts and Humanities  
at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

# Islam and Ecology

## Environmental Values as Faith-Based Stewardship



**Frederick M. Denny**  
**Professor Emeritus**  
**Department of Religious Studies**  
**University of Colorado at Boulder**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**The Pyle Center**  
**702 Langdon Street**

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.