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## **Islamic Reformism and Christinaity. A Critical Reading of the Works of Muhammad Rashid Rida and his Associates (1898-1935)**

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## Stellingen

- 1) The history of Christian missions in the Muslim world has been predominantly written from a Christian, missionary perspective (This thesis).
- 2) Rashīd Riḍā's views on the Christian faith and its scriptures have left their great impress on the polemical discourse in many contemporary reformist circles. (This thesis).
- 3) The debate of the Lutheran missionary Alfred Nielsen with Riḍā reflects a strand of self-critical liberal Christian thought which many conservative Christian thinkers, at that time and still today, would have found objectionable (This thesis).
- 4) Rashīd Riḍā's publication of the Arabic translation of the Gospel of Barnabas can be considered a part of a continuing Islamic literary tradition looking for an 'Islamic Gospel' that supported the principal tenets of the Islamic faith (This thesis).
- 5) The call of Bible Belt American missionaries for a 'war for souls' in Afghanistan and Iraq has its causal connection with George W. Bush's declaration of the 'war on terror'.
- 6) The current social realities of Muslims cannot be understood in isolation from the primary Islamic sources and their interpretations in history.
- 7) The fate of many family archives and private papers of well-known makers of modern Islam would definitely be the dustbin, if they had not been discovered in time by researchers or by academic institutions.  
(Inspired by a statement made by Dr. Hārūn Zekī Kirām).
- 8) The position of Arent Jan Wensinck within Dutch orientalism has been unjustly overshadowed by the abundant attention given to his teacher Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje.
- 9) Historians and social scientists are strongly recommended to use the telephone directory as a primary source in their research.
- 10) The current policy of the International Office of the University of Leiden is discouraging and sometimes unfair towards the post-graduate students from the Third World.

11) A three-year-old daughter thinking that her father is writing a pink book about Cinderella instead of a PhD thesis should be taken seriously.

12) 'Harry, bedankt', this statement should have been published by Muslim organizations in the Netherlands as a front-page advertisement in *de Volkskrant*.

(Referring to the advertisement published by Harry de Winter, *Een Ander Joods Geluid* and *Stichting de Initiatieven* against Geert Wilders in *de Volkskrant* on 17 March 2008).