

Tabula Gratulatoria

Presented
to

Michael E. Marmura

Professor Emeritus of Islamic Philosophy,
Former Chair of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern
Civilizations at the University of Toronto,
Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

**On the Occasion of his 75th Birthday
11 November 2004**

By his
Colleagues, Friends, and Students

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Dedication

Dear Prof. Marmura,

Today is the 11th of November, 2004.

When I read the world news headlines today, I was informed of how many more people would be commemorating the 11th of November. Today is a momentous day.

How fitting that you, Professor Marmura, should be born on Remembrance Day, a day when the disastrous effects of past wars are commemorated in silence—a silence that declares what must be spoken.

To present this *Tabula Gratulatoria* to you today is to acknowledge, in no uncertain terms, how your scholarship has uttered that silence, and to honour the vision that it brought to us. Through it we have been given a passport—oh, how privileged to have a passport!—to Islamic lands, cultures, and thought.

In collecting the names of those who rushed to sign the Tabula, and their comments, I know they join me in celebrating the humanism with which you have recreated a space so that the highest of principles uniting Judaism, Christianity, and Islam can once again come alive. What resurfaced repeatedly, was not only the astounding significance of your scholarship, but also the deep impact of your actions.

People from all over the world have been inspired and touched by you, and have reflected on the consistency of your integrity and of your generosity. They have marvelled at the way in which you recited poetry in the class, the way you brought food unannounced to the homes of hungry students, and the kindness, compassion, and justice with which you have dealt with all of us.

In words gleaned from the most prominent scholars of Islam:

It is an honour to be added to the list of names celebrating Michael Marmura. He is a true gentleman, a true humanist, and the finest of scholars.

Shukran, ya Usteth.

Ruth Mas