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Comparative Religion in Medieval Muslim Literature



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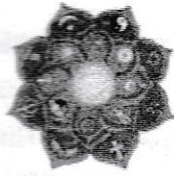


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CHAPTER

Introduction

Background of

THE RESEARCH examines medieval study of religions, with specific reference to the works of the Muslim scholar al-Biruni (d. 1048) and Abd al-Karim al-Jawhary. These scholars are comparable, since their works deal with world religious traditions in a comparative manner. The literature of the religious tradition of Islam is well known as important and admirable. In comparative religion, they wrote detailed references for modern Muslim theologians. Yet, medieval Islam is a period of religious and crosscultural history. As Franz Rosenthal points out, the study of religions has been rightly acclaimed as one of the great achievements of Muslim civilization to mankind. From the eighth to tenth centuries, for example, geographers, and travelers focused

1. Franz Rosenthal, "the preface" of Bruce L. Ruxton (Moulton: Moulton & Co., 1976)