

# INSIGHT ISLAMICUS

===== AN ANNUAL JOURNAL OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH IN ISLAM =====

VOL. 17

ISSN: 0975-6590

2017



**Shah-i-Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies**

**UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR, SRINAGAR-190006**

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## Said Nursi and Imam Rabbani on the Concept of Prophethood

Dr. Afroz Ahmad Bisati\*

### Abstract

Bediüzzaman Said Nursi (1877-1960 AD) and Imam Rabbani (1564-1624 AD) are two extraordinary personalities that the Muslim world has produced. Their intellectual and spiritual influence continues to be felt in the contemporary world. The aim of the paper is to compare the views and methods of Said Nursi and Imam Rabbani on the concept of Prophethood and to underline the points of convergence and divergence. The methodology applied is comparative, historical and analytical. The writings—*Risale-i Nur* and *Ithbat-i Nabuwwah*—of Said Nursi and Imam Rabbani respectively serve as the primary source for this paper. The paper arrives at the conclusion that though the two thinkers are separated by time but are linked by the mission and spirituality. They both used combined approach and methods to defend the institution of Prophethood and its relevance and efficacy in the ever-changing times. In doing so they were greatly successful in rejuvenating the faith and importance of Prophethood.

**Keywords:** Imam Rabbani, Bediüzzaman Said Nursi, *Risale-i Nur*, *Ithbat-i Nabuwwah*, *Maktubat-i Imam Rabbani*, Prophethood, Qur'an.

### Introduction

Bediüzzaman Said Nursi (1877-1960 AD) and Imam Rabbani<sup>1</sup> (1564-1624 AD), two extraordinary personalities—separated by time but linked by mission and spirituality, revisited the role and function of Prophethood in their respective times. Especially, when the question came under pressure of transformation due to the emergence of new interpretations rising from both within the fold of Islam as in the case of Imam Rabbani and through the emergence of modern scientific and technical age in the case of Said Nursi. As such both tried to revive and renew Islam by addressing the faith-questions arising out of intellectual encounters of their times. At the heart of any renewal

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