

Iqbal and Modernity

Nasir Abbas Nayyar*

Raising fundamental epistemological question of modernity in its western context, the article first distinguishes it from modernism and modernization and then traces Iqbal's attitude towards them. Modernity belongs to the whole social fabric, modernism to only art and modernization to ways of adopting modern methods, techniques at some or all segments of society. Epistemologically modernity (and consequently its other forms) is based on rational, authoritative, self-sufficient human self, negating metaphysical and traditional grounds. Iqbal's poetry shows some similarities with western concept of modernism and his philosophy seeks to adopt modernity's rationality, while preserving metaphysics. Iqbal does not accept loneliness, absurdity and meaninglessness of existentialism but he glorifies man's individuality. Iqbal's ideas of modern world and modern man have been analysed critically, in this article, by studying especially his poetry.

*