

The Search for *Qing Zhen* in the Islamic Literature *History of the Soul*: A Christian Interpretation of the Chinese *Sufi Tariqa* — *Jahriyya*

(An abstract)

HO Wai-Yip

Sir Edward Youde Fellow;

Visiting Scholar

Division of Social Science

Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

In response to the Post-9/11 Era and the War on Terror, the general western responses are either emphasizing military deployment in containing the proliferation of terrorism, or suggesting that liberalism and democracy will eventually bring Muslim societies to true liberation. While much attention focuses exclusively on the increasingly antagonistic inter-national relation between “Islam and the West,” this article stresses another side of the political geography, namely the intra-national relations between “Islam and the East.”

By giving a general historical survey and a brief introduction of Zhang Chengzhi’s religious-historical literature *History of the Soul*, this article traces the rise of the *Jahriyya Sufi* Order (New Teaching), one of the four Chinese *Sufi* movements (*menhuan*), and the subsequent tragic martyrdom throughout the *Qing* Dynasty. Going through the history of the religious and cultural genocide of this *Sufi* tariqa, this article deciphers the undercurrent of the deep-rooted ethnic tension and bitter mistrust in the Hui-Han relation in China.

Taking an approach different from cultural ambassadors

and NGOs' emphasis on ecumenical dialogue among religions, the author suggests the Cross of Christ as the very center of Christian theological inquiry in response to the Islamic theology, namely *Theologia Crucis*. It is also the Cross that should become the point of departure for Christian mission in dealing with China's Christian-Muslim relation in the future. The traumatized memory of Chinese Muslims, the *Jahriyya*, can be exclusively healed through the Cross of Christ. In practice, the proclamation and life example of Christ-like followers is the Christian essentials in witnessing in the Islamic context. In other words, the Passion of Christ is *the* distinctive Christian message of resolution in the contemporary age of terrorism.