

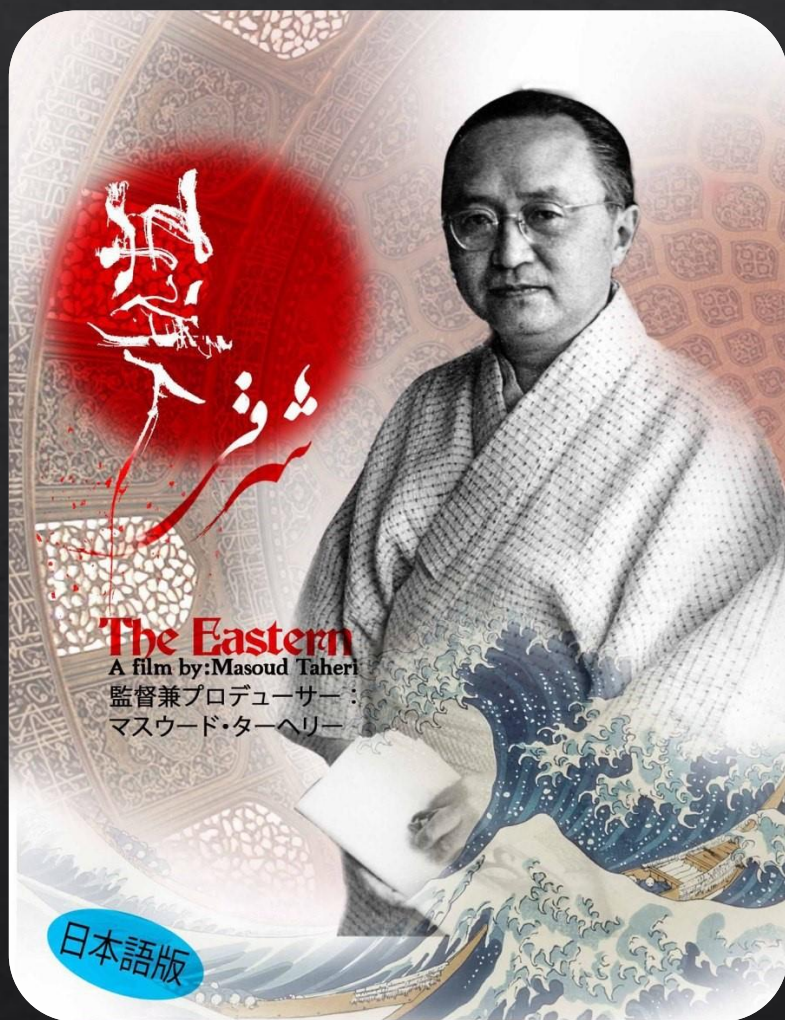
Documentary  
film

## Sharqī (The Eastern) A Documentary Film about Toshihiko Izutsu

A film by: Masoud Taheri

“I was moved by the desire to boldly measure the methodological scope of the synchronic structuring of Oriental philosophy that has dominated my mind. Even if it ultimately turns out to be futile, the mere fact that I was able to embark on this attempt is, for the time being, something I should be satisfied with.”

Izutsu Toshihiko. *Consciousness and Essence: In Search of The Spiritual East*. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 2010.




“Sharqī” is the world's first bio-pic about the philosopher Toshihiko Izutsu (1914-1993). His linguistic theology and comparative philosophy, which he wrote in English, are well-known outside of Japan. However, his long-cherished concept of “Oriental philosophy” was never known outside of Japan and has been forgotten even within the country. On the other hand, Izutsu spent a long time working in Iran, deeply influencing modern and contemporary Iranian thought. This film, directed by Iranian filmmaker Masoud Taheri, features interviews with Izutsu’s friends, colleagues, students, and researchers, offering a groundbreaking view of the scholar that includes valuable testimonials and new materials. It vividly portrays the journey of the great philosopher and his lesser-known aspects.

Genre	Theme	Language	subtitle	Time	Fee (tax included)	Code
Documentary	Philosophy History Thought	Audio: Japanese, Persian, English, French, etc.	Japanese	130 Min	¥ 3,800 \$ 25.00	SHPF001



BS1 スペシャル

イスラムに愛された日本人  
～知の巨人・井筒俊彦～




BS1 11月8日(金) よる11時

- 出演 サヘル・ローズ
- 語り 小早川正昭
- ディレクター 小中和哉
- 制作統括 藤田英世 大門博也 小早川佳之
- 制作 NHK エンタープライズ

- プロジェクト映 / CEO 加藤邦英 COO 柴田正 CFO 渡辺康弘
- プロデューサー / 小椋悟
- 撮影 / 近藤武 吉住卓
- 音声 / 中西雅人
- ヘアメイク / 深山健太郎
- 取材 / 伊藤義将 原潤勝仁
- コーディネーター / フローラ・ジャスミン
- 編集 / 垣田篤人
- 音楽 / キットカットクラブ スキャット 高遠彩子
- 墨絵アニメーション / 堀川弥一郎 かんばこうじ 神林裕介
- 監修 / サキブール・バフマン 安藤礼二

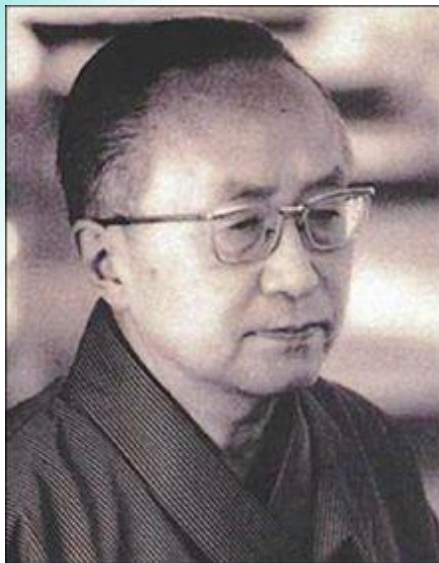
●制作・著作 / NHK プロジェクト映

BS1  
11月8日(金)  
よる11時



This film has been screened at various universities, including McGill University, Stanford University, MIT, Oxford University, the University of Edinburgh, Meiji University, Rikkyo University, and others. Additionally, there have been many articles about this film in Persian, Japanese, and English on various websites and blogs, including an introduction on the B.B.C Persian website. Furthermore, NHK created a program titled "The Man Who Loved Islam," based on this documentary, starring Sahel Rose, which was broadcast on the BS1 channel on November 8, 2019.

**Interview :** Matsumoto Akirō, Kuroda Toshio, Kamada Shigeru, Ono Junichi, Sawai Yoshitsugu, Wakamatsu Eisuke, Nomoto Shin, Kobayashi Haruo, Takeshita Masataka, Mehdi Mohaghegh, Seyyed Hosein Nasr, Hermann Landolt, James Morris, Bahman Zakipour, etc.



Renowned Japanese Islamic scholar and philosopher Toshihiko Izutsu was born on May 4, 1914, in Tokyo. During his childhood, he was compelled to practice Zazen (Zen meditation) and study the scriptures of the Sōtō Zen school due to his father's deep interest in it. However, Izutsu did not appreciate this experience

and distanced himself from Zen and Buddhist thought, eventually shifting his focus to linguistics. As a result, he went on to learn 30 different languages, which became the solid foundation for constructing and compiling his philosophical system.

In 1934, Izutsu enrolled in the Faculty of Letters at Keiō University, where he was captivated by lectures given by Orikuchi Shinobu (1887-1953) and received guidance from his professor, Junzaburō Nishiwaki (1894-1982). While studying various languages, he developed an interest in Arabic and deepened his knowledge of Arabic and Islamic thought through encounters with two Tatar

individuals, Abdürreşid İbrahim (1857-1944) and Mūsā Jārullāh (1870/75-1949). Izutsu's expertise in this field eventually led him to translate the Qur'an into Japanese between 1951 and 1958. This translation, published in three volumes by Iwanami Shoten in 1957-58, was the first direct translation from Arabic to Japanese and is recognized as the fourth Japanese translation of the Qur'an.

In 1959, Izutsu received a scholarship from the Rockefeller Foundation and traveled to the Middle East and Europe for two years. Towards the end of his scholarship period, he received an invitation from McGill University's "Institute of Islamic Studies" and stayed in Canada for a while.

While in Canada, Izutsu taught Islamic classical literature and published three significant and relatively new works on Qur'anic semantics (Qur'an semantics) and Islamic theology, earning him international acclaim and revered status in his field.

Additionally, during his time in Canada, Izutsu developed close relationships with Iranian scholar

Mehdi Mohaghegh (1930-) and Swiss scholar Hermann Landolt (1935-). Through Landolt's introduction, Izutsu became involved with the Eranos Conference and, in collaboration with Mohaghegh, established the “McGill University Institute of Islamic Studies - Tehran Branch.” Izutsu stayed in Iran for approximately ten years, teaching and conducting research not only at the aforementioned institute but also at the “Imperial Iranian Academy of Philosophy” and the “Iranian Center for the Study of Cultures.”

After the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Izutsu returned to Japan and made efforts to conceptualize the results of his long-standing activities and research as the structural framework of “Oriental philosophy.” He analyzed philosophical systems from Eastern traditions such as Vedānta, Taoism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Islamic Mysticism, Qabbālā, and Neo-Platonism, aiming to identify

structural unity among these philosophies. Izutsu referred to his own philosophical system as “Oriental philosophy.”

After years of research on Islam and “Oriental philosophy,” Toshihiko Izutsu passed away on January 7, 1993. His grave is located in Unchōan, one of the sub-temples of Engaku-ji in Kita-Kamakura area.



### Notable Japanese works

1. *Kōran* コーラン [The Koran], trans. 3 vols. 2nd ed. Tokyo: Iwanami shoten.
2. *Kōran wo yomu* コーランを読む [Reading the Qur'an]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1983.
3. *Isurāmu Bunka: Sono Kontei ni Aru Mono* イスラーム文化—その根柢にあるもの [Islamic Culture: The Foundations Underlying It]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1981.
4. *Ishiki to Honshitsu: Seishin-teki tōyō wo Motomete* 意識と本質—精



的東洋を求めて [Consciousness and Essence: In Search of The Spiritual East]. Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten, 1983.

5. *Ishiki no keiji-jōgaku: Daijō-kishin-ron no Tetsugaku* 意識の形而上学—『大乘起信論』の哲学 [Metaphysics of Consciousness: The Philosophy of the Awakening of Faith in the Mahāyāna]. Tokyo: Chūkō bunko, 2006.



### Notable English works

1. *Ethico-religious Concepts in the Qur'ān*. Montreal: McGill Queen's University Press, 1966.
2. *God and Man in The Qur'an: Semantics of the*

*Qur'anic Weltanschauung*. Tokyo: Keiō University Press, 1964.

3. *The Concept of Belief in Islamic Theology: A Semantic Analysis of Īmān and Islām*. Tokyo: Keiō Gijuku Daigaku Shuppankai, 1955.
4. *The Concept and Reality of Existence*. Tokyo: Keiō University Press, 1971.
5. *Sufism and Taoism: A Comparative Study of Key Philosophical Concepts*. California: University of California Press, 1984.



## Masoud Taheri

An Iranian filmmaker, screenwriter, researcher, and producer.

Born in 1980 and currently residing in Tehran. He obtained his master's degree from Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran and began his career in the film industry in 1996. He has primarily focused on creating works centered around philosophy and mysticism.

### Major movie works

1. *Hissa-yi Raḥmat*. Feature film, 2011.
2. *Sharqī: About Toshihiko Izutsu, Japanese philosopher*. Feature film documentary, 2018.
3. *Mustashriq: About Henry Corbin, French philosopher*. Feature film documentary, 2019.
4. *Al-Kāfī: About Muḥammād ibn Ya'qūb Kulaynī, Shī'a ḥadīth collector the 10<sup>th</sup> century*. Feature film documentary, 2023.

### Major TV programs

1. *Japanese Loved by Islam: The Giant of Knowledge, Toshihiko Izutsu*. NHK BS1 Channel, Local Filming Cooperation, 2019.
2. *The World is Full of Desired Things: The Beloved Persia, The Origin of Beauty*, NHK 1, Local Filming Cooperation, 2020.
3. *Tokoro de Nanjakorya!? Continuous Shocking Videos from Around the World & Revealing the Secrets of Hit Products*, TV Tokyo, Local Filming Cooperation, 2022

### publication

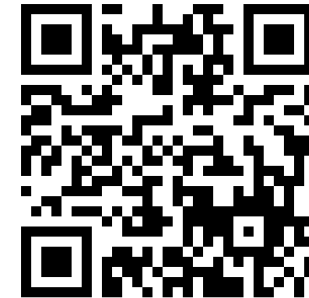
*A' llāma: Life and Works of Shamsu'd-Din Muḥammād Amulī*, Tehran: Nashr-i Nāmak, 1401s/2022.



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