# Secularism, Identity and Enchantement by Akeel Bilgrami

## Introduction:

Introduces the concept of secularism as a western political thought.

Secularism is a mean to achieve good in other departments, not an end in itself.

#### Research Question:

Whether secularism, with its roots in western philosophy, can exist with Islam, and more importantly, if Islam with all its imperatives in morality and social life can exist with secularism.

#### Purpose:

Discusses the issue of conflict between religious values and western values, for example, freedom of expression.

Secularism usually favors the western values over the religious values.

## 4. Secularism and Religious Identity in Islam

#### Definition and Prioritization:

Secularism is positioned as a stance that seeks neutrality in governance by separating religious influence from state operations. However, Bilgrami argues that secularism's implementation is contingent on societal context and ideals, which may differ in Islamic societies.

#### ****Lexicographical Ordering****:

Secularism prioritizes fundamental political ideals (e.g., equality, freedom of expression) over specific religious laws or customs when conflicts arise.

#### Tensions with Comprehensive Ethical Systems:

Islam, as a comprehensive worldview encompassing moral, legal, and social dimensions, often presents challenges to secular neutrality. Bilgrami explores how secular governance might navigate these tensions without alienating deeply religious communities.