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**“Korean Muslims in South Korea: An Analysis  
of their Identity and Oppressing Problems”**

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Living as a Muslim in a non-Muslim society is by no means an easy task. What makes the lives of Muslim minorities difficult stems mainly from differences and conflicts between Islam and the realities of a given society. The ongoing antagonism and clash between the Muslim world and the western world has particularly played a major role in widening differences and deepening conflicts. This circumstance has fatally affected the lives of Muslim minorities in the world. Ceaselessly oscillating within a crevice between two dichotomous poles, Muslim minorities must endure the painful process of survival as Muslims, which involves a contradiction between integration and isolation. How this condition is represented in the lives of contemporary Korean Muslims is the question to which this paper directs itself. To seek an answer, it focuses primarily on the identity of Korean Muslims and the problems faced by them. Giving preliminary information on the history of Islam in South Korea, this paper draws out the identity of Korean Muslims. It then moves to examine their problems of oppression while living in the non-Muslim Korean society, addressing the nature of the problems, specifically their kinds, origins and process. In so doing, the primary argument concerns “Korean Muslims” not “Muslims in Korea” – “Korean Muslims” who locate themselves between the ideal of Islam and the local realities of Korea. The conclusion elucidates some characteristics of “Korean Muslims” necessary for understanding contemporary Islam in the ever changing Korean context.