

## EDITORIAL

This is a combined issue (No 1 & 2 of 2019) of the *Hamdard Islamicus*. We are missing our great mentor and Editor of the journal, Prof. Dr. Ansar Zahid Khan, while presenting this combined issue. He was an internationally recognized authority on history, whose temporal life came to end on 19th February 2019. Earlier in January 2019 we lost first Co-Editor of our journal Prof. Dr. Syed Husain Mohammad Jafri. He was also a renowned academician of international repute. Obituaries of both the luminaries are included in this issue.

This issue comprises various research articles discussing Qur'ān, religiosity, theocracy and social media.

The first Article, "A Critique of Mohammed Arkoun's Views on the Qur'ān, Sunnah and Religious Thought": an important article; which sheds light upon late Mohammad Arkoun's views about the Qur'ān, that create considerable controversy. This article is a good criticism on Arkoun's view.

Social media has developed as a powerful alternative source of information having a significant impact on the society. The next article "Social Media, Religion and Religiosity in Pakistan in the Era of Disruption" explores the broader scene of disruptive technologies in relation to Muslims, Islam and Pakistan. It examines the social media landscape in Pakistan and also points out the impact of disruptive technologies on the society in Pakistan.

The third article, "Reconciling the Views of 'Umar b. 'Abd al-'Aziz (d. 101 AH/ 720 CE) on Mosque Decoration" discusses the views of Umar b. Abd al-Aziz, regarding mosque decoration and its emergence as the first Muslim architectural deviations.

The concept of *Istiṣnā'* offers, an alternative way for avoiding interest based loans. It presents a manufacturing contract for the accomplishment of various agricultural needs, thus solving the needs of low income farmers. The authors of the fourth article "The Concept of *Istiṣnā'* in Islamic Commercial Law (*Sharī'ah*) and its Possible Role in the Development of Local Farming in Pakistan" discuss the concept of *Istiṣnā'*, from the point of Pakistani farmers.

"The Qur'ānic version of the story of Yusuf (Joseph): Labovian Analysis of Aziz-i-Misr Episode" is the fifth article analyzing Labov's model of narrative analysis and its application to Qur'ānic story of Yusuf (Joseph).

*Hajj* is an important obligation of Islam. It is obligatory on all Muslims subject to a few conditions. Every year millions of Muslims from the entire world gather to perform this sacred duty. This activity has a great and comprehensive impact on every Muslim country. The Sixth article is "The Impact of *Hajj* on the Society of Bangladesh". The author emphasizes several reform movements in Bengal as an outcome of *Hajj*.

"A Critique of the Theocratic Model of the Sultanate of Delhi", is the seventh article which argues that Sultanate of Delhi was neither a theocracy nor a sample of Islamic polity.

The next article is "The Opposition of the Shi'ites towards Kalām: with particular reference to *Tarjīḥ Asālib al-Qur'ān and al-Rawḍ al-Basim* by the Zaidite Muhammad ibn Ibrahim ibn al-Wazir al-San'āni (d. 840/1436). The title is self-explanatory of the main theme of the paper.

Various scholars have tried to interpret the rulings and admonitions by the Qur'ān. In recent decades there are few feminist approaches to differ from traditional exegeses on the gender equality issues and to try to form new Qur'ānic hermeneutics. The last article "Some Reflections on Paradigm Shift in Qur'ānic Interpretation on Gender Equality Issue Discourse" is an attempt to study these feminist approaches.

This issue includes two obituaries, two book reviews and the Index of the *Hamdard Islamicus* Vol. XLI (2018) as well.

**Editor-in-Chief**