

EDITORIAL

This issue is unprecedented in a variety of ways. It has five papers with extremely interesting materials, four Research Notes, four Book Reviews, eight conference/seminar reports, and one letter to the Editor. Its lead article has been written by one of our top intellectuals displacing many conventional notions to assert that Islamization is a force of global renewal. It is rare that one reads such a nicely worded, well-argued, and refreshing article.

This issue begins with a selection from the Holy Qur'ān and commentary by the AMSS President, 'AbdulḤamīd AbūSulaymān. These selections always inspire the readers and provide the best framework for conceptualization. The lead article by Mona Abul Fadl of the International Institute of Islamic Thought contends, and rightly so, that *Tawḥīdī* Episteme is as relevant to modernity as anything else could be. Following her article are two papers germane to Islamic thought. In the first, Husain Kassim presents Sarakhsi's Doctrine of *Istiḥsān* as an approach towards *Ahkām al-Dunyā*. In the second paper Hakim Rashid deals with the socialization of Muslim children in America. Discounting the dichotomy within and across societies between ideal and actual behavior in the West, he asserts that acquisition of knowledge, skills and socialization among Muslim children must conform to the Qur'ān and Sunnah.

The third section on Islamization of Disciplines also presents two papers. In the first one, Mohammad Siddiqui describes an Islamic framework for the study of interpersonal communication. The other paper, by A. al Tayob, is a review of the religious, political, and social transformation of the Arabs after the advent of Islam. He compares pre-Islamic Arab societies with Muslim Arab societies and states that religio-cultural-political transformation in them was the expression of the holism of the Qur'ān which was capable of underlining the meaningfulness of the past, thus bridging the gap between past and present.

The following section has four Research Notes. Rizwan Malik organizes his note in two parts. In the first, he discusses the role of the 'Ulama in the political development of late 19th and early 20th century India. In the second, he raises an interesting question concerning whether the role of 'Ulama was based on Islamic issues or was shaped by its response to British power. In the following note, Marwan Obeidat examines Royal Tyler's *Algerine Captive* (1797), affirming that such novels and others like them, including the accounts of early travellers and missionaries gave a fragmentary and grossly inaccurate

perception of the North African Barbary Muslims. In the first one, Mohammad Siddiqi briefly describes an Islamic framework for the study of interpersonal communication. Then Raquibuz Zaman, in another note on insurance and risk management in a Muslim state, asserts that insurance must be provided to those who seek it to prevent catastrophes since state-based welfare systems are inadequate for financial protection. The last Research Note, by Rashid Siddiqi, is in support of Islamizing librarianships. He maintains that Islamizing Librarianship is essential to avoiding Western conceptualization of Islam and to developing the Islamic world view.

Following the section on Research Notes are four Book Reviews, eight Conference Reports, and one letter to the Editor. All these and other materials reflect an appreciable heightened input by its readers.

The Association of Muslim Social Scientists and the International Institute of Islamic Thought deserve every possible appreciation of all Muslim social scientists for so admirably sustaining the journal. Since this issue marks the end of my term as its Editor-in-Chief, let me thank the AMSS, the IIIT, and my colleagues who helped me, guided me, and supported me in doing my job for the AMSS. It is gratifying that the Editorship is now going to Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, who is more adept, more meticulous, more precise, and more professional. I believe he will serve the journal better, and build an even better image. I pray to Allah (SWT) that He gives him strength and guidance to serve the journal and you, the subscribers, better. I am also gratified to note that the AMSS President, Dr. 'AbdulḤamīd AbūSulaymān, has been appointed as the Rector of the International Islamic University in Malaysia at Kuala Lumpur. We pray to Allah (SWT) to give him the strength and foresight necessary to successfully add to building that University into a world class institution. I will always be available to offer whatever little I can for the betterment of the journal, *Insha' Allah*.

Mushtaqur Rahman