WHERE MODERN SCIENCE AND CIVILIZATION MEET ISLAMIC VALUES AND EPISTEMOLOGY: CREATIVE ENCOUNTERS

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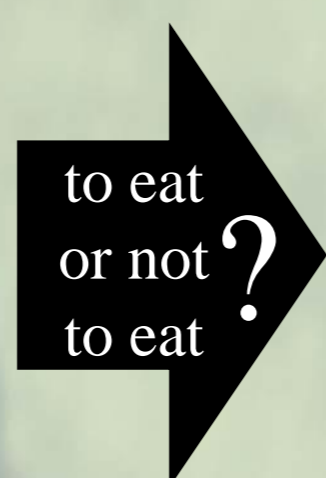
Abstract:
Modern science and civilization develop many things for human use and raise many critical questions which touch the core Islamic ethical and aesthetical values and its epistemology, leaving us with more doubts than ever before. Islam advanced a positive attitude towards science and civilization through its well established epistemology and value-based mechanism rooted in the Maqasid al-Shari'ah (objectives of Islamic law). Based on this mechanism Islam creatively endorses whatever meets its standard and rejects whatever violates it. This creative encounter between Islam and modern science and civilization is explored in five broad integrated fronts: ethical, aesthetical, epistemological, eschatological and ontological fronts. The findings are published in four local and international refereed journals and in a book chapter.

Ethical Query: GM Food Dilemma

This research introduced the Islamic interpretive-evaluative maxims to two core issues in engineering ethics: genetically modified foods and whistleblowing. The study aimed primarily to provide problem-solving maxims within the Maqasid al-Shari'ah (Islamic Law) matrix through which such moral dilemmas in science and engineering could be studied and resolved.

Authors: Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu & Abdul Rauf Ambali,

Title: "Dissolving the Engineering Moral Dilemmas Within the Islamic Ethico-Legal Praxes," *Science and Engineering Ethics*. Published Online: 24 November 2009. DOI: 10.1007/s11948-009-9185-7.

Aesthetical Query: Islamic Dress Code

Hijab, an Islamic ethico-religious and socio-cultural symbol, is increasingly becoming visible in the Western public arena giving rise to a debate over its compatibility with dominant Western culture and values. This research highlights the sociological, religious and cultural rationales for the increasing visibility of the Islamic dress code among young Muslim women. It provides a discursive framework based on a cultural sociology through which Hijab and Niqab could be accepted.

Author: Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu

Title: "Making Sense of Ḥijab and Niqab in Contemporary Western Societies," *Intellectual Discourse*, vol. 17, no. 1 (2009): 25-41.

Epistemological Query: Revelation

Belief in God's message and messengers is a basic article of Islamic faith. This research explored the meaningfulness of revelation and Prophethood, their function and place in the Islamic worldview, and their relevance to the contemporary era. It examined whether the prophetic message has been supplanted or subserved by humans' intellectual enlightenment and their technological advancement.

Author: Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu

Title: "Revelation and Prophethood in Islamic Worldview," *Journal of Islam in Asia*, vol. 6, no. 1 (2009), 168-149.

Eschatological Query: Al-Akhirah

After the doctrine of *Tawhid* and Revelation, *al-Akhirah* (The Last Day) is the most repeated theme with all vigour in the Qur'an. This research explored the great significance that *al-Akhirah* possesses, not only for man's final end but also for his life in this world. Taking into consideration the challenges posed by modern science and technology, the study delineated the place of this doctrine and the purpose it serves in Islamic worldview.

Author: Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu

Title: "Al-Akhirah (The Last Day)," in *Introduction to the Islamic Worldview,* ed. by A. Berghout (Kuala Lumpr: IIUM Press, 2009).

Ontological Query: The Making of the Qur'anic Worldview

The Qur'an was revealed in Arabic by design, not by accident. Given this, what is it of the divine message expressed in Arabic that cannot be expressed in other languages? Could the Qur'anic conception of reality and vision of the universe be known outside its Arabic language or through a non-linguistic medium, or is it the Arabic language that makes the Qur'anic vision of reality in the first place? This study examined the structural semantic approach based on the linguistic relativity theory to scriptural language as exemplified in Izutsu's studies of the Qur'anic worldview.

Author: Abdul Kabir Hussain Solihu
Title: "Semantics of the Qur'anic Weltanschauung: A Critical Analysis of Toshihiko Izutsu's Works," *American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences*, vol. 26, no. 4 (Fall 2009): 1-23.