

ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE

DIMENSIONS OF THOUGHT

Edited By
THAMEEM USHAMA



IIUM Press

**ISLAMIC REVEALED
KNOWLEDGE**
Dimensions of Thought

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The Epistemological Basis of the Islamic Worldview: Al-Attas' View

Fatimah Abdullah

Introduction

As generally acknowledged, an idea or a concept expresses a certain meaning within its own system from which once severed, it can no longer signify what it was set for by its respective system. This is true also of the concept of submission as understood within the Islamic system. Since no concept of science or scientific knowledge is possible without a conceptual environment, namely a worldview, al-Attas has persistently emphasized that the development of an Islamic worldview is indispensable for the realization of the Islamization of knowledge. This Islamic worldview is, as it were, the bedrock on which the edifice of 'the arts and sciences of Islamic civilization can be erected.

The Concept of The Worldview of Islam

We must first begin by elucidating the concept of the Islamic worldview, as expounded by al-Attas. In the Preface to the *Prolegomena*, he underlines the importance of a metaphysical systematized worldview.¹ He thus sets himself to show the