

ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE

DIMENSIONS OF THOUGHT

Edited By
THAMEEM USHAMA



IIUM Press

**ISLAMIC REVEALED
KNOWLEDGE**
Dimensions of Thought

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Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Islamic revealed knowledge : dimensions of thought / edited by Thameem

Ushama

Include index

Bibliography: p. 287

ISBN 978-967-0225-18-0

1. Islam--Doctrines. 2. Faith (Islam). 3. Thought and thinking--
Religious aspects--Islam. I. Ushama, Thameem.
297.2

ISBN: 978-967-0225-18-0

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed By:
IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.
No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3
Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves
Batu Caves Centre Point
68100 Batu Caves
Selangor Darul Ehsan
Tel: +603-6188 1542 / 44 / 45 Fax: +603-6188 1543
EMAIL: iiumprinting@yahoo.com

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The Concept of Divine Mercy in the God-Man Relationship: A Qur'ānic Perspective

Majdan Alias

Introduction

The Qur'ān, the most authentic source for the teachings of Islam, in many of its verses, speaks about the attributes of God. Some of the attributes describe how God relates Himself to His creations, particularly human beings. The dispute between the Ash'arites and the Mu'tazilites on the issues of God's divine predestination, human freedom, and mankind's final destiny actually centers on different ways of looking at how God provides responses to the deeds and actions of His servants.

The Ash'arites emphasize the supremacy and superiority of God; His absolute power over His creations. The Mu'tazilites put emphasis on God's divine justice. For the Mu'tazilites, God created Heaven and Hell so that man would receive rewards or punishments accordingly on the Day of Judgment. This, in their view, is due to the absolute justice of the Absolute Being. On the ground of divine justice, the Mu'tazilites maintain that man has full freedom over his own actions. It is only when man is given utter freedom that God can be described as the Just.¹ In this way, there is a reason for the creation of Heaven and Hell.