

ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE

DIMENSIONS OF THOUGHT

Edited By
THAMEEM USHAMA



IIUM Press

**ISLAMIC REVEALED
KNOWLEDGE**
Dimensions of Thought

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The Relevancy of Ibn Qutaybah's Discourse

Che Amnah Bahari

Introduction

Muḥammad ibn ‘Abd Allāh (peace be upon him), the Prophet of Islam, has been discussed by both Muslims and non-Muslims. What has been observed so far is based on writers’ precondition, affiliation, or orientation; on whether he or she is a believer or non-believer. Of course, for Muslims, the position of his Prophethood is indisputable. This position, being one of the fundamental elements of the Islamic worldview as stipulated in the *kalimah shahādah*, is challenged by the onslaught of religious pluralism that speaks about religious equality¹ or the transcendent unity of religions and hence, it renders Prophet Muḥammad (peace be upon him) equivalent to any other ordinary person. This new trend challenges the minds of young Muslims, particularly those who are in need of evidence to refute them. The idea of perennial philosophy² that claims and intends to equalize all religions as sacred, absolute and equally treated, as written by Syed Hoesin Nasr does not help but rather aggravates the situation. Another blow is the *Fitna*,³ a 2008 short film by Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders, which is approximately seventeen (17) minutes in length, shows selected excerpts from the Qur’ān, interspersed with media clips and newspaper clippings showing or describing acts