

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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Ibn Khaldūn's Discourse on *ʿIlm al-Kalām*

Amilah binti Awang Abd Rahman

Introduction

Faith is the core axis of all religions. In Islam, faith or *ʿaqīdah* not only provides knowledge of the Unseen world and beings, but also of the worldview that guides Muslims in all walks of life. Therefore, the primary responsibility of Muslims is to ensure their correct understanding of *ʿaqīdah*. In relation to this, *ʿilm al-kalām* or Islamic theology is considered an inseparable component of explaining *ʿaqīdah*. *ʿIlm al-kalām* is regarded as an integral part of the development of thoughts to strengthen different concepts related to faith. It unveils contributions of Muslims who have shown their concern when facing internal as well as external challenges, threats of circumstances, and who took an uncompromising stand in defending the religion i.e. Islam. Indeed, contemporary opinions are formed as a result of the efforts and interpretations of early scholars.

Generally, *ʿilm al-kalām* is perceived as an area of knowledge dealing with basic religious beliefs, proofs and defenses against the attack on the foundations of the Islamic faith.¹ Although several traditions of the Prophet manifest disapproval for it, especially discussing issues related to God, it is still believed by Muslim scholars that there is need for discussion after his time