Paradigm Shift On Thought

Muslim Women`s Perspectives

Edited by:
Dr Solehah Yaacob

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Contents

Authors.....ii

Foreword.....v

Chapter 1: Al-Shatibi's Exposition Of The Concept Of *Maṣlahah* In The Theory Of Maqāṣid by Adibah Binti Abdul Rahim.....1

Chapter 2: The Expression Of Meaning As A Logical Approach In The Case Of Semantic Study by Solehah Yaacob.....23

Chapter 3: Reevaluating The Methods Of Polemic And Apologetic In The Muslim Study Of Other Religions by Haslina Ibrahim.....41

Chapter 4: The Origins Of Semitic Languages by Solehah Yaacob & Shamsul Jamili Yeo.....63

Chapter 5: The Difference Between Al-Ashʿarī's Istihsān And Al-Ghazali's Iljām AlʿAwām by Adibah Binti Abdul Rahim.....79

Chapter 6: Ibn Al-Arabi And The Philosophy Of Religious Pluralism: A Critical Examination by Haslina Ibrahim.....87

Chapter 7: Obedience Of The Wife: A Theological Contextual Approach by Fadzilah Din.....111

Chapter 8: Ancient Palestine And The Creation Of An Israelite State by Solehah Yaacob.....133

Chapter 9: Women As Productive Human Capital In Malaysia: A Way Forward by Rohaiza Rokis.....143

Chapter 10: The 'Moral Panics' Behind Television Advertising Regulation In Malaysia by Aida Mokhtar.....167

CHAPTER 4

THE ORIGINS OF SEMITIC LANGUAGES

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Introduction

'Semitic' is a word introduced by Schlozer[38] in 1871 to denote the group of languages evolved from Aramaic, Pheonic, Hebrew, Arabic, Yemen, Babylonian and Assyrian.[39] He understood them to be languages of the descendents of the Prophet Noah.[40] From the time of the Upper Palaeolithic age,[41] the descendents of Adam were the founders of human civilization. Their success depended on the stability of their political, cultural and geographical structures, and linguistic study is a vital aid in the analysis of their development. The major written cultures of the ancient Near East have produced the largest body of material from their eras, providing a sound basis for

[38] German Orientalist whose theory is not supported by Arab scholars who coined the rival term 'Jazariah' or 'Urubah'; see A. A. al-Wahid and J. A. Kamaludin, *al-Harakah al-Tawilah fi al-Lughat as-Samiyat*, p. 15.
[39] A. A. al-Wafi, 1988, *Fiqh al-Lughah*, Cairo: Dar al-Nahdah, p. 6.
[40] G. Roux, 1965, *Ancient Iraq*, London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd, p. 124.
[41] Relating to the time when humans first started to make tools out of stone.