

MODERN ISSUES IN QUR'AN AND SUNNAH STUDIES

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Critical Thinking in Islam: Its Concepts, Processes, Techniques and Barriers

Mohammad Habibullah* and Dr. Noor Mohammad Osmani**

Abstract:

The main purpose of this paper is to discuss important aspects related to critical thinking and provide an Islamic perspective for it. It would clarify what is meant by critical thinking, to highlight processes involved and to provide some techniques used in critical and creative thinking. The paper will also discuss the common barriers to critical thinking and how to overcome such barriers. Thinking process includes both creative and critical thinking. Both are important to us as we need to think differently in different situations. The Qur'an inspires the Muslims to adopt critical thinking in matters and not to accept issues blindly. A critical thinker must understand the structure of an argument, presented by a politician, a friend, a spouse, a child or a teacher. He has to use sound reasoning to evaluate claims and make decisions. A critical thinker has to reach conclusions by taking clear stand on a given issue, not hastily, but after careful consideration.

Keywords: Critical thinking, Qur'anic inspiration, techniques, processes, barriers

Introduction:

Critical thinking is an essential element in a person's life. He should adopt both critical and creative methods to solve problems and reach conclusions. For example, if a student writes a thesis, he has to involve himself in both creative and critical thinking processes. He is in the creating process to produce his points of argument. At the same time, he needs to evaluate the strengths and loopholes of his arguments to ensure that his writing is good and logical.

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