

Editorial

This is the third publication of al-Burhān for the year 2021. We have had the first issue in February and a special issue for themed papers from the Inaugural Jamalullail Chair for Prophetic Sunnah International Conference published in June. This second ordinary issue consists of seven articles: three articles in English, three articles in Arabic, and one article in a language of the Muslim society, following the established format of al-Burhān. We also have authors from across the globe in addition to authors from International Islamic University Malaysia. We are committed to bring this journal forward and improve that which are necessary with the sole purpose of making al-Burhān one of the leading platforms for academic exchanges with regards to knowledge on Islamic revelation. We hope that the journal will leave a positive impact on the intellectual advancement of the society and the betterment of humanity.

The first article of this issue was submitted by a professor from al-Azhar University. Following a thorough examination of several copies of manuscripts, the author attempts to correlate some early Ḥijāzī and Kūfan Qurʾān fragments to their Ancestral ʿUthmānī codices. The author does not aim to classify those parchments according to their readings, which were systematically canonised later by Ibn Mujāhid (d. 324/936), but he examines them according to their province and the earlier codices on which they were based. By so doing, the author hopes that the research will provide a useful mechanism to test the veracity of accounts maintained in Islamic sources on the earliest codices of ʿUthmān.

Moving from the study on Qurʾānic *muṣḥaf*, the second article traces the history of the contribution of women in the field of *tafsīr*. The study undertaken by two female scholars from Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM) enumerates several women who have contributed to the interpretation of the whole Qurʾān or parts of it. The authors highlighted that female exegetes are like diamonds in the sky. They were not many as male scholars of *tafsīr*, but they possessed special qualities and were significant members of the society. The authors have also stressed that the interpretation of the Qurʾān has always been evolving by a principle known as “*ijtihād*” and it is not limited to a specific gender.

The third article pursues a *ḥadīth* critical analysis and probes the subject of *al-taṣwīr* or as the author put it, handmade image-making. The authors differentiate between two-dimensional and the three-dimensional images. It is intriguing that instead of using the conventional term of *ikhtilāf* (dispute), the authors conducted their study in light of the term *ittijāhāt* (trends). They provided verification for more than a dozen *ḥadīths* and offered a preferred position for the ruling on producing and acquiring two-dimensional and the three-dimensional images.

The first Arabic paper of this issue treats a similar subject to the first English paper that is the critical study of the authenticity of the Qurʾān in response to the criticism raised by the orientalist. In their paper, the two scholars from Bangladeshi institutions provide their response to the claim of grammatical errors found in the Qurʾān. They consulted both the English and Arabic sources to address this issue.

The fifth and sixth articles both have connection to Bangladesh as well. The former studies the issue of late marriage in Bangladeshi society whilst the latter focuses on the principle of *sadd al-dharāʾiʿ* and its application in the formulation of religious verdicts on issues related to women in Bangladesh. We can here conclude that the Arabic papers of this issue should have contributed to the enhancement of Bangladeshi studies especially regarding the study of revelation and applied scriptural studies.

As for the last article, for the first time al-Burhān publishes an article in the Chinese language with the help of an expert reviewer and after consulting those well-versed in the language. This article is a Chinese translation of a work by Syed Naquib al-Attas titled *The Concept of Education in Islam: A Framework for an Islamic Philosophy of Education*. The author has requested for permission to translate and completed the translation for quite a while. She eventually decided to publish her translation in this journal. The editorial would like to thank Ms. Syamilah Heng Kamal Koh for her assistance in this regard.

The editorial board will continue to improve the presentation and the editing of articles for this journal. Some formatting schemes are adopted to comply with the requirement of the Malaysian Citation Centre and the international standard for the publication of journals. It is our hope that this journal will continue to progress and benefit its readers.

Khairil Husaini Bin Jamil

Editor-in-Chief

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