

Editorial

It is our pleasure to inform the readers that *al-Burhān Journal of Qur'ān and Sunnah Studies* has made it to its sixth year with a new line up of members of the editorial board. We congratulate the new members for their appointment and we thank the previous members of the editorial board for their contribution and efforts in making *al-Burhān* one of the leading platforms of academic exchanges with regards to knowledge on Islamic revelation and human sciences. We are happy also to inform the readers that the college to which this journal belong has been renamed to AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences in honour of the late AbdulHamid AbuSulayman, the founder of the college.

This February issue starts with an article that applies the examination of vignettes in the Qur'anic depiction of the Jews. The study concluded that the outlined vignettes – both positive and negative – note to a structural unity of the divine book. The use of vignette in qualitative studies is quite recent and the attempt of the author to apply it in his study that looks into the characteristics of Jewish people as depicted in the Qur'an should be appreciated and developed further. The author ends his presentation concluding that “the vignettes help any ordinary reader of the Qur'an to reshape the rough sketches into an integrated image that precisely defines the Jewish character and its relationship with the world around.”

Moving into the field of *ḥadīth*, *al-Burhān* presents its second article that compares between the approach of the renown Muslim historiographer Ibn Khaldūn and the methodology of *ḥadīth* scholars in evaluating reports transmitted from earlier generations of Muslim. The author argues that Ibn Khaldūn's approach towards the scrutiny of the narrations is an extension of the previous principles laid down by the scholars of *ḥadīth*. However, Ibn Khaldūn provided a significant contribution through his critical approach to historical reports.

The third article of this issue reiterates the authority of *ḥadīth* as a source of legal rulings in Islam. The author explains the relation between the Qur'an and *ḥadīth* and provides some elaborations on the status of Sunnah according to the Qur'an. The elaboration was provided in order to refute an argument forwarded by those called by the author as deniers of *ḥadīth* or Qur'an absolutists. The author gave emphasis on their view that obeying the Prophet in establishing extra-Qur'an religious legal rulings denotes an act of polytheism and provided his argument to refute them.

As usual, after three articles in English, the three subsequent articles would be from those composed in Arabic. The first of these Arabic articles tackles the subject of *al-qirā'at al-tafsīriyyah* which he defines as every Reading that

contradicts the conventional Reading of the *ʿUthmānī muṣṣhaf*s, yet has been accepted as the explanatory Reading of the Qurʾan. The article shows that there are diversities in linguistic and grammatical views as well as many other forms of multiplicities in dealing with this subject.

The fifth article explores the psychological emotions of the Prophet as appreciated from verses and reports that illustrate its signs through changes in physical features and conditions, i.e., the body language. The author offers several conclusions at the end of the article that may improve our understanding of Islamic psychology. The last Arabic article was developed from a conference proceeding and discussed the current phenomenon of atheism amongst the people of Bangladesh.

Finally, the seventh article of this issue is an article written in Urdu. The author shared with us his study of the religious and educational contributions of Mawlana Muhammad Ali Jauhar (1878-1931), a renown Muslim thinker and freedom fighter in India. One of his memorable quotes was “For more than twenty years I have dreamed the dream of a federation, grander, nobler and infinitely more spiritual than the United States of America, and today when many a political Cassandra prophesies a return to the bad old days of Hindu-Muslim dissensions I still dream that old dream of 'United Faiths of India.' It was in order to translate this dream into reality that I had launched my weekly newspaper, and had significantly called it *The Comrade* – “comrade of all and partisan of none” ...”

Khairil Husaini Bin Jamil

Editor-in-Chief

February 2022