

FROM THE EDITORS

Greetings,

Ten years past since we launched the first issue of *İlahiyat Studies* with a vision to become an internationally accredited academic platform to disseminate knowledge accumulated by researchers in different fields of *ilabiyat* and religious studies. It has become one and established a secure place not only in the Turkish academia but also in the international academic community. As a team, we make the utmost effort not to compromise its quality as shown by the numbers below.

During the past ten years, we received works from thirty-seven different countries, from the USA and Canada to Australia, from Botswana to China. Of all the manuscripts submitted to our journal, including review essays, book reviews, and research articles, 33% are from Turkey, 32% are from Asia, 21% are from the Middle East, 8% are from Africa, 2% from America, 4% from Europe, and less than 1% are from the Pacific region. Of all the articles published in the journal, 45% are from Turkey, 21% are from Western Europe, 19% are from America, 8% are from the Middle East, 3% are from Eastern Europe, 3% are from Asia, and 2% are from Africa. Research coming from Turkey, which make up 45% of the published articles, belong to authors working in twenty-five different institutions. The rate of admission to the publication from the articles that come to our journal is 0.18 on average. As of 2019, this rate is 0.07. In other words, we can publish only 7 out of 100 articles submitted to us.

We also tried our best to publish only well-qualified works in a wide range of areas regardless of country, title, and institution of their authors. Although we published the works of numerous scholars who are known to be experts in Islamic and religious studies, we,

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nonetheless, did not hesitate to publish the works of newly graduated researchers that successfully passed the review process in our journal.

The publication process of *Ilabiyat Studies* has always been a fulfilling experience for us, we hope that reading the articles will also be fulfilling for our readers.

This issue of *IS* features four articles and three book reviews. The first article, “The Green Man: What Reading Khiḍr as Trickster Evinces about the Canon,” by Jibril Latif, presents a detailed account of an enigmatic figure commonly known as the Green Man. The article pursues its argument by asking certain seemingly “mundane” questions relevant to our contemporary situation first, and then goes on to delve into the depths of the subject matter by asking serious questions, carefully analyzing the accounts in the Qurʾān and comparing them with other folkloric, literary, philosophical, and religious canonical works.

The second article by Ahmet Dağ, “Losing Our Space/Madīnah: From the Madīnah of Reality to A Simulation City,” presents a critical analysis of the so-called modern architecture prevalent not only in Europe but also in the Muslim world from a Baudrillardian interpretive framework. The author argues that there is a dialectical relationship between the city and human beings who build them. In other words, while human beings build quarters (*maballabs*), these *maballabs* in the due process also “build” human beings, for quarters function not only as physical structures but also have an administrative, social, and cultural nature. The article argues that the Western positivistic worldview did not only have an impact on our ways of thinking but also the way we create our cities.

İbrahim Aslan’s article “Meta-Entity (*al-Ghayr*) and Its Value Metaphysics in al-Māturīdī” aims to understand and explain the nature of the unity between being (entity), knowledge, and value in al-Māturīdī’s theological system. This is important, argues the author, for despite its importance for the Islamic theological tradition and thought, it has been overlooked by scholars, who, instead, focused upon the problem of being and knowledge. In pursuing the subject matter, the author analyzes the concept of the “meta-entity” that al-Māturīdī coined in the tradition of Islamic theology.

The final article by Şener Şahin, “Theme and Lyricism: Two Considerations in the Islamic Writing Tradition Motivating Muslim

Authors in Naming Their Works,” aims to present a comprehensive examination of the theme and form of book titles from various disciplines, particularly in the Arabic language and literature as well as tafsīr, ḥadīth, history of religions, Sufism, philosophy, botany, zoography, zoology, mineralogy, astrology, astronomy, and numismatics, created by the *saj*^c style (rhymed prose). The article investigates the titles of works written between the 3rd and 10th centuries AH to follow the evolution and witness the ongoing vivacity of the *saj*^c style.

As always, we thank our readers, authors, and anonymous referees for their invaluable contributions.

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