

FROM THE EDITORS

Greetings,

This issue of *Ilahiyat Studies* features three articles and four book reviews on various themes within the classical Islamic sciences. The first paper by Murat Kaş, “Apprehension and Existence, Appearance and Reality: The Reception of *Nafs al-amr* Debates after the 13th Century,” analyzes a sophisticated topic, the concept of *nafs al-amr*, which has a unique place in the history of Islamic thought. The article articulates the debate, especially how it has evolved around the notion of apprehension and existence and appearance and reality, with a specific purpose of creating a map of treatments, arguments, and counter-arguments vis-a-vis the reception of *nafs al-amr* debates specifically after the 13th century.

In the second article, “Expansion or Contraction of the Prophetic Experience? An Analysis of the Prophetic Dream Theory of ‘Abd al-Karīm Surūsh,” Asiye Tıǧlı presents a lengthy discussion of revelation and how it relates to the notion of dreams and imagination as articulated by Dr. Surūsh in a series of articles. To that end, the article first attempts to clarify the distinction between the concept of dream and the traditional approaches to revelation. Second, it examines the relevance of revelation with dreams to compare what she calls “alternative imagination” found in Islamic philosophy and Sufism. By doing this, the author aims to show how Dr. Surūsh tries to resolve the age-old debate regarding this matter by clarifying the meanings of the relevant concepts.

The final article by Roghayeh Farsi, “Discourse Strategies and Narrative Repetition in the Qur’ān: A Special Reference to *al-Shu‘arā’*,” challenges the Orientalist narrative that the Qur’ān is an incoherent book because of the occurrence of similar and

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contradictory accounts. Although there have been various attempts to react to this claim, there has not been a full-blown theory that settles the matter convincingly. This article aims to fill that gap by presenting how the seemingly fragmented narratives in the scripture bring to the text thematic and stylistic value and significance, proving the Qurʾān's overall coherence at the inter-verse and inter-surah levels. The analysis reveals some striking findings that can be summarized as follows: First, each of the narrative's topoi in the social actors' representation evinces the dominance of predicational strategies; second, the Qurʾānic discourse is bias-free and is significantly distinguished from the political discourse.

As already indicated on the website of *Ilahiyat Studies*, with the current issue, the journal's executive board has decided to open up the journal for full access without any restrictions. We would like to inform the authors that no fees will be charged for submitting, reviewing, or publishing papers. The paper edition of the journal will continue to be published as it has been up until now.

As the entire editorial board, we wish you all a healthy and peaceful future during the challenging times we are going through.

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