

Editorial

This June 2023 issue of IIUM Journal of Religion and Civilisational Studies encompasses a wide range of topics related specifically to Islamic religious studies, history of Islamic civilisation as well as contemporary social studies.

The first article “Roadmap to Social Reconstruction from Surah al-Hujurāt: Safeguarding Society from Misinformation and Disinformation” by ASM Delowar Hossain examines various aspects and impacts of misinformation and disinformation in contemporary society. The advent of modern technology poses an arduous challenge to acquire true information and with that comes countless adverse effects such as chaos, misunderstanding and even aggression. Discussed against the background of past and contemporary events that took place in different parts of the world, the author advocates a social reform by incorporating the Social Reconstruction philosophy outlined by al-Quran in Surah al-Hujurāt. The philosophy entails a process of self-development by emphasising on the importance of verification of information and involves a holistic approach in the sense that the authentication process should include various responsible parties. Only then, as suggested by the author, the society will enjoy peace and stability.

Reflecting on the social condition in Malaysia, “The Rate of Divorce among Muslim Couples in Malaysia: A Legal Analysis of the Causes and Consequences” by Hassan Suleiman and Nurul Afifah bt Mohamad Farid seeks to identify the causes and effects of *ṭalāq* or divorce among Muslim couples in Malaysia in view of the increasing number of failed marriages in recent years. After pointing out some valid reasons for divorce, the authors attributed some common factors leading to divorce such as lack of understanding between spouses, financial factors, failure to fulfil responsibilities, infidelity, etc. The authors then dwell on the adverse effects of *ṭalāq*

particularly on the divorcees and children of broken families which include not only social and psychological issues, but also financial implications.

“Physical Learning as the Preferred Learning Style among IIUM Malay Undergraduates” by Nur Atiera Binti Yunus and Iyad M. Y. Eid is a case study on the preferred learning mode i.e., physical or face-to face learning among IIUM (International Islamic University Malaysia) undergraduates during the Covid-19 pandemic. Using a sampling technique involving ten (10) undergraduates, the findings of the study illustrate that the students prefer the physical learning to online as it enables them to have a better communication with instructors and fellow students which in turns permits them to have a better focus and concentration in their studies. While the pandemic may be a thing of the past, yet the input is certainly deserving of note by various parties concerned with the learning and teaching methods at tertiary level.

The next article, “Imam Ahmed Raza Khan and the Revival of the Islamic Astronomy in India” by Naseeb Ahmed Siddiqui is meant to highlight the contributions of a Muslim scholar from India, Ahmed Raza Khan. A mathematician and astronomer, Ahmed Raza Khan sought to revive the past legacy, that is the *Maragha* movement which signifies intellectual criticism of past and modern doctrines or sciences. Going through Ahmed Raza’s four main works on astronomy, the author demonstrates in length the scholar’s attempts to refute Copernican astronomy, particularly in relation to Earth’s motion theory using various sciences such as mathematics, logic, philosophy and modern physics. Apart from these sciences, Ahmed Raza also made use of information contained in the Quran which resulted, as pointed out by the author, a new planetary model that is worth looking into. Certainly, this paper by Siddiqui enables readers of history and Islamic civilisation to appreciate and acknowledge Imam Ahmed Raza for who he was, namely an all-rounded scholar with a critical mind of his own.

Finally, there is a book review by Makmor Tumin. The said book is *The Polemic of Salafi-Wahabi: Untangling the Tangle (Polemik Salafi Wahabi: Merungkai Kekusutan)* by Abdul Rahman

Hj Abdullah (published in 2021 by Rimbunan Islamik Media Sdn. Bhd.). The book engages with the issue of divergence or division among Muslims where the author explains the root cause of such divergence which led to the birth of Ash'arism and Maturidism (*Ahlul Sunnah wal Jamaah*) on one hand, and Wahabism or Najdi Dawah on the other. He also dwells on the factors that contribute to extremism and the proper etiquettes in expressing different views. While acknowledging that the work is useful for readers to have a better understanding of the subject matter, the reviewer maintains that the provided information might enhance further the existing divergence as some readers might use the arguments that suit them to strengthen their own convictions especially since the religious split or division the Muslim community involving the two groups has long existed. The reviewer is also of the view that the book should persistently stress to readers on the need to refer to the two primary sources for Muslims i.e., Al-Quran and As-Sunnah in case of differences in views. Lastly, the reviewer acknowledges the fact that accumulative wisdom is something to be expected as people encounter changes in their lives with the passing of time hence, differences in views or divergence in the society is a common scenario.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I would like to extend my gratitude to all contributors and reviewers who involved in this June issue. It is hoped that their valuable ideas and works will contribute to the enrichment of knowledge particularly in civilisational studies and be of interest to scholars and readers of history and civilisation worldwide.

Finally, I also wish to express my gratitude to all members of the Editorial Board, our Editor Dr. Mohd Helmi Mohd Sobri, and Associate Editor Dr. Alwi Alatas, without whose efforts and dedication, the publication of this issue will not be possible. Thank you.

Fauziah Fathil
Editor-in-Chief
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