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## Editorial

The 67<sup>th</sup> issue of the quarterly research journal “*Noor-e-Ma'rfat*” is here. The first article of this issue, titled “A Critical Review of Orientalist Commentaries on the Text of the Quran,” defends the common belief of all Muslims that the Holy Quran is a revealed book whose text is not the words of any human being. It is the word of Allah Almighty that was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through revelation.

This article is written against the backdrop that some Orientalists have attempted to prove in their research works that the text of the Quran is not the exact revelation; rather, it is a book derived from pre-Quranic sacred texts and it has been influenced by many human factors in its compilation. This article proves that the method by which Orientalists have conducted research on the text of the Quran is itself invalid and it may be applied to Gospels, but cannot be applied to the text of holy Quran. According to the author, the research and studies of Orientalists about the text of the Quran not only do not undermine the revelational status of the Quran, but also strengthen it.

The second article in the current issue, titled “Rethinking the Nature of Learning – Importance and Necessity”, carries a key message in the field of education and upbringing. In fact, learning is a process that takes place from the beginning to the end of life. The main point of this article is that contemporary taxonomies that describe the the goals and outcomes of learning, need to be reconsidered. Because they are indifferent to the ultimate goal of human creation. Therefore, after gaining a deep understanding of the nature of the learning process, a comprehensive methodology should be devised so that as a result of the learning process, a student can develop all his existential capabilities and move towards the true purpose of his life.

The title of the third article is, “The Importance and Role of Science in the Formation of Modern Islamic Civilization.”

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According to the author, a troubling problem for thinkers, scholars, and philosophers of the Islamic world is that the Muslim world has a great scientific and cultural heritage, it owns valuable lands and resources, it has a young workforce, but despite all this, a modern Islamic civilization has not been formed here. How is this possible?

Among the thinkers who have tried to find a solution to this problem, Allama Iqbal is a unique figure. The essayist has explained this solution in the light of Allama Iqbal's sermons. According to him, the most important member of the comprehensive strategy that Allama Iqbal has presented here is the theory of knowledge. In fact, in every era, epistemology dominates all sciences and the history of human thought. Therefore, Allama Muhammad Iqbal has presented a specific epistemological approach and the author has tried to highlight the excellent features of Allama Iqbal's comprehensive approach.

The fourth article is titled "Analytical Review of Javed Ahmad Ghamidi's Theory of Imam Mahdi (a.s.)". According to the article, all Muslims unanimously believe in the appearance of Imam Mahdi (a.s.), which is derived from the Quran and authentic Hadiths. However, in the 21st century, Mr. Javed Ahmad Ghamidi refuted this theory and called it a baseless. He has presented three arguments in support of his position: First, that Imam Mahdi (a.s.) is not mentioned in the Holy Quran. Second, that the traditions narrated about Imam Mahdi (a.s.) are all fabricated. And third, that the authentic traditions in this regard are attributed to Umar bin Abdul Aziz.

The author of the article has critically examined Ghamidi's theory on the basis of his own acceptable principles. According to him, Ghamidi's position, in addition to being against the Holy Quran, is also against explicit and consistent hadiths. Also, from an intellectual point of view, it is against reason. In this regard, the author of the article has attempted to prove these three claims in the light of detailed arguments and has presented evidence from the Quran, Sunnah, reason, and reasoning that

exposes the weakness of Ghamidi's position.

The fifth article in the current issue of the quarterly “*Noor-e-Marfat*” is in Arabic, “تأثير الافتراضات المسيقة على الفهم نظرة مقارنة بين الهرمنيوطيقا وأصول الفهم العقلانية”. This article, in fact, discusses the topic of how to achieve correct understanding from a text. Because Hermeneutics claims that texts are silent and it is the reader who gives them meanings on the grounds of his prior perceptions. In contrast, the prevailing theory of textual understanding is that the meaning derived from any text, in accordance with the rational principles of textual understanding, is the correct and definitive one.

In this article, the author has examined in detail Hans-Georg Gadamer's theory that a person's prior understandings are necessary to understand any text. Also, that a person cannot escape the influence of his historical and social preassumptions in understanding any text. However, according to the author, Gadamer's theory of understanding a text is, in many aspects incompatible with the methodology of comprehension that the desicpline of *Usul-e Fiqh* puts forward; i.e, "generic appearance" (zuhūr naw‘ī); that regulates the influence of preconceptions, relying on linguistic and jurisprudential rules to interpret any text. It offers principles of textual understanding that prevent the reader's prior perceptions and individual tendencies from influencing the understanding from the text.

The final article in this issue is titled “Unilateral Economic Sanctions and their Impacts on Human Rights: Case Study of US Sanctions on Iran.” According to the article, “unilateral sanctions” are an important topic of international law. In fact, the argument of supporters of these sanctions is that they prevent belligerent and partisan states from destabilizing the international system. But, the opposite position is that these sanctions are in conflict with international law and human rights.

The present paper examines the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran after the Islamic Revolution. According to the paper, although the sanctions imposed on Iran by the United Nations

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were lifted after the JCPOA, these sanctions by the United States remain in place and have been intensified and increased from time to time. The article examines the reasons why Iran is under US sanctions. The article focuses on the success and failure of US sanctions on Iran, as well as the impact of these sanctions on the Iranian people.

Finally, the impact of US sanctions on Iran on the United States itself is also examined. This article answers the question of whether these sanctions have strengthened America's position in the Middle East or have they had the opposite effect.

We hope that the current issue of “*Noor-e-Ma'rfat*” will also provide the best material to quench the intellectual thirst of our readers. God willing!

Editor “*Noor-e-Ma'rfat*”,

Dr. Muhammad Hasnain.