

Editorial

The finality of the prophethood of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is an established belief of the Muslim *Ummah*. If one raises the question as to whether the demise of the Prophethood (PBUH) does not contradict the rule of divine grace related to the guidance of mankind, the answer would be in negative. It is so because the demands of such a divine grace are fulfilled by the comprehensiveness bestowed in the Qur'an and Sunnah, leaving nothing aside. Furthermore, it is also a sign of God's grace that mankind are brought to such a level of intellectual shrewdness that they can immerse themselves in the depth of the Qur'an and Sunnah and find solutions to problems of their time and town on their own.

If this philosophy of the finality of the prophethood and the occultation is accepted, the background and necessity of exhausting all intellectual capacity in the comprehension and application of the *Qur'an and Sunnah*, which is termed as "*Ijtihad*," comes to the fore. Story of Islamic jurisprudence therefore is the story of the exercise of *Ijtihad* in understanding the *Qur'an and Sunnah*. The first article in the fiftieth issue of quarterly research journal "*Noor-e-Marfat*" analyzes the evolutionary stages of *Ijtihad* in Islamic jurisprudence, drawing lines between *Ijtihad* and *Qiyas* (analogic reasoning). This article explains where and why *Ijtihad* is needed even when there *Nas* (explicit textual proof) exists. It also explains the approach and methodology a *mujtahid* adopts when there is no *Nas* in the scripture. This article, hence, elucidates the methodology of deducing and inferring Islamic teachings (from the sources) which protects from any excesses and errors in the explanation of that teachings.

The second article in this issue also reflects the same *Ijtihadi* approach and contains an important theoretical discussion. This article discusses the meaning of the commandment and prohibition in the Quran and Sunnah (Islamic scripture). Indeed, the outcome of this debate has a profound effect on the derivation of jurisprudential judgments. In this article, the honorable author has reached to clear conclusions by examining the views of the scholars of different Islamic sects. The third article in this issue is also representative of the *Ijtihadi* approach of two eminent personalities on an important issue. While highlighting the ideological foundations for the establishment of an Islamic government in the light of the views of *Ruhollah Imam Khomeini* and *Allama Abul-A'la Mawdudi*, this article puts forward two different traditions of Islamic political philosophy.

The fourth article of this issue also describes a slightly different kind of struggle and *Ijtihadi* approach to the understanding of Islamic scripture and the practical implementation of Islamic teachings. While highlighting the services of the pioneering Sufis of this approach in the propagation of Islam in the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent, this article has proposed the Sufi tradition as a remedy for contemporary religious narrow-mindedness and ethnic and linguistic hatred.

The fifth article in this issue deals with the basic elements of character building. This article sheds light on various aspects of human character in the light of the views of three prominent personalities of the Islamic world, *Imam Ghazali*, *Khawaja Nasir-ud-Din Tusi* and *Allama Muhammad Iqbal*, and discusses the causes and elements of good and bad character and remedy for the latter. The sixth article of this issue offers practical ways to avoid despair in the event of human

suffering, diseases, hardships, and different types of calamities, especially during the outbreak of disastrous epidemics such as the corona virus. According to this article, human beings' humbleness in the presence of their Creator and God opens the way to salvation and removes the harm caused by calamities.

The seventh article of the fiftieth issue of quarterly research journal "*Noor-e- Marfat*" narrates the origin and evolution of Urdu script. This article highlights the historical and evolutionary relationship of Arabic, Persian and Urdu scripts. According to this article, the division between Urdu and *Dewnagri* script was a part of the linguistic policy of Fort William College. This part of the article carries to us the message that languages & linguistics have been used in politics as the tools for cultural occupation upon nations. So independent nations should always give special importance to their language, literature, and script.

The last article in this issue is concerned, in general, with politics. According to it, the question of national interest in the Iranian foreign policy has always been a complex intellectual issue. In fact, the basic question surrounding this debate is as to whether ideology and national interest can coexist or not, and how national interest is defined. With this background, this article argues for Constructivism (theory) as an appropriate approach for understanding the issue of national interest in Iran's foreign policy. This article claims that there is no conflict between ideology and national interest in Iranian conception of foreign policy.

We hope the diversity of articles in the current issue of the *Noor-e-Marfat* would be very informative for the readers and they would be able to get opened many blocked avenues of practical life in the light of its contents. God willing!
