

Editorial

The 54th issue of the quarterly research journal *Noor-e-Ma'rfat* is being presented to the readers. The 1st article of this issue presents those ideas of Imam Razi's Tafsir *Mufatih Al-Ghayb* that are related to the moral reformation of the individual and the society. According to the author, by acting upon the principles of moral upbringing that Imam Razi has outlined in the light of the Quranic teachings all the contemporary moral problems can successfully be dealt with. In the 2nd article, an attempt has been made to clarify the standard of the 'Sunnah' by extracting the applications of this term in the light of the interpretations of the scholars from the Prophet's time to the present day.

The 3rd article examines materialist and atheist ideologies in the light of Islamic teachings. This article introduces Muslim students to the Islamic perspective on ontology, anthropology, epistemology and morality. The author argues that the teachings of Revelation are stronger than all materialist and atheist philosophies. The 4th article of the current issue explains the four basic principles of foreign policy of an Islamic state in the light of the Qur'anic teachings, namely "Da'wah", "Independence", "Islamic Dignity" and "Fulfilling Treaties". The 5th article covers the objectives of the Islamic curriculum from the time of the Holy Prophet (AS) to the time of the Abbasids. These objectives include the acquisition of divine knowledge, the ability to vicegerency of Almighty Allah, the commandment to do good and forbid evil, the protection of Islamic interests and ideology...

While critically examining the basic concepts of feminism in the light of Islamic teachings, the 6th article of this issue argues that the basic concepts of feminism are not compatible with the teachings of Quran. Men and women are equal in the nature predisposed to know God, adherence to religious precepts, human respect, the right to choose, and the ability to achieve proximity to Almighty Allah and to reach the state of the divine vicegerency. That said, there are some physical, mental and emotional differences between men and women that are essential for the survival of humanity. So, the contemporary movement of feminism is, in fact, contrary to Islamic teachings and equivalent to the exploitation of women's rights.

In the 7th article of the current issue, the well-known historian and orientalist Arnold Joseph Toynbee's theory of the formation and

evolution of Islamic civilization is scrutinized. The author has proved that Toynbee's methodology and approach to understanding facts of civilizations are mistaken. Despite the fact that he was influenced by Muslim historians like Ibn-e Khaldun, he could not escaped the Christian bias. The 8th article of this issue highlights the style of Maulana Abdul Hadi Shah Mansoori's Tafsīr *Al-Burhan Fi Muskalat-e-Quran*. According to this article, there are four basic principles of this commentary, viz., “interpretation of the Quran by the Quran,” “interpretation of the Quran by the prophetic tradiotns,” “interpretation of the Quran by the opinions of the Sahaba,” and “interpretation of the Quran by the Tabie’en.” Some other notable features of this commentary have been also introduced.

In the 9th article, the author has discussed the commentary on Imam Ibn Malik's book on the science of syntax, *Alfiyyah*, the "*Al-Ashmooni*". Allama Ashmoni has provided important explanations and evidences from the Holy Quran and the hadiths of the Holy Prophet regarding Arabic grammar rules. Attempts have been made in this article to substantiate the claim that the role of the Qur'an and the words of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) are central in the development of all sciences, including Arabic language and literature. The 10th article, entitled as "The Evolution of Islamic Banking in Pakistan: A Qualitative Analysis", provides a scholarly overview of the developments in Islamic banking in Muslim countries, especially in Pakistan. According to author, the roots and developments of the Islamic banking could be found in the time of Holy prophet (PBUH) and his Caliphs. The author has underlined the need to strengthen Islamic banking in Pakistan.

Based on Ali Eteraz's novel *Native Believer*, the last article of this issue, titled “9-11, Islamophobia and Human Rights”, presents an analytical assessment of the causes and implications of islamophobia in America. The main purpose of this article is to invite Muslim scholars to take measures to counter the global anti-Islam propaganda and to present a peaceful picture of Islam to the world. We hope that this issue of the quarterly *Noor-e-Ma'rfat* will - as always - prove to be a real attempt to solve the intellectual and practical problems of the Islamic world. God willing!

Dr. Sheikh Muhammad Hasnain

Editor *Noor-e-Ma'rfat*