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## Genesis of Knowledge: An Introduction of the Role of Islamic Scholarship in Global Progress

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The intricate relationship between knowledge and Islamic scholarship has been a defining characteristic of the Muslim intellectual tradition, dating back to the medieval period and persisting into contemporary discussions on education, science, and global progress. Islamic scholarship, marked by an extensive interdisciplinary approach, has historically fostered advancements not only within the religious domain but across natural and social sciences. This phenomenon is vividly illustrated by the contributions of Muslim scholars to fields such as mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy, establishing a legacy that has significantly influenced modern educational frameworks and global knowledge production (Fakhrurrazi et al., 2023).

The pivotal role of Islamic education in shaping cultural and scientific discourse is further underscored in modern contexts, where scholars advocate for knowledge integration that aligns traditional Islamic values with contemporary academic demands. Such integration of Islamic teachings with modern methodology not only preserves rich intellectual traditions but also enhances relevance in today's fast-paced and ever-evolving societal landscapes. The contemporary necessity for a holistic understanding of knowledge, which encompasses both religious and secular epistemologies, points towards an urgent need for Islamic scholarship to evolve continually in response to global educational challenges (Widiyanto, 2022). Furthermore, the global scenario post-9/11 has necessitated a reevaluation of the portrayal of Islamic scholarship within Western academia and media. The imperative to counteract prevalent stereotypes has been met with resilience by Muslim scholars who actively engage in dialogues that reframe Islamic contributions to knowledge in a more accurate light (el-Aswad, 2013). This narrative serves as an essential reminder of the importance of accurate historical and cultural representations that can enrich broader academic discourse and foster mutual understanding among diverse global communities.

The dialogue surrounding Islamic scholarship is not merely academic; it is intertwined with the processes of identity formation, cultural integration, and social justice. As Islamic education systems confront modern challenges, there is a pressing need for critical engagement with both historical contexts and contemporary learning modalities. As we forge ahead, it is crucial to not only acknowledge but also promote the essential contributions of Islamic scholarship as a vital component of global progress, bridging the ancient with the modern and the local with the universal. Hence, the *al-Irsyad: Journal of Islamic and Contemporary Issues* Editorial Board is delighted to announce the release of Volume 8, Issue 1 (June 2023). This issue includes eight studies that explore to the history and phenomenology of religion from an Islamic perspective.

Usman et al., in their paper "Does Islam Tolerate Other Religions? A Quranic Perspective," aimed to show how Islamic tolerance can solve religious conflicts that affect numerous areas of life, such as the economy, security, and politics. This paper also provides more profound knowledge based on the perspective of the Quran to build a society full of peace, harmony, and unity through Islamic tolerance. The Quran's stance on tolerance must be understood and followed to prevent societal divisions.

This title invites an exploration into the concept of religious tolerance as articulated in the Quran. Understanding whether Islam accepts other religions involves deeply examining Quranic teachings and

interpretations, which underline the values of tolerance, respect, and coexistence among different faiths. The Quran is often cited to illustrate Islam's stance on tolerance towards other religions. Scholars agree that the Quran promotes a balanced view on the acceptance of religious diversity. For instance, it emphasizes forgiveness, kindness, and understanding towards those of differing beliefs. One significant contribution to this discussion is the assertion that the Quran encourages Muslims to engage with others in a way that prioritizes good over evil and fosters a forgiving disposition (Fadzil, 2012). This suggests that tolerance is fundamentally rooted in the Islamic philosophy of mercy and compassion, where characters such as the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serve as exemplars of peace and inclusivity (Supriyadi, 2023). Moreover, the discussion about tolerance in Islam is not monolithic; various interpretations exist. The concept of "religious pluralism" in Islam is anchored in a theological framework that acknowledges the existence and validity of multiple faiths. Baig points out that the Quran illustrates that the acceptance of plurality is a natural condition decreed by God (Baig, 2014). This aligns with the idea that tolerance does not equate to the mixing of beliefs but rather is an attitude of respect towards them (Afandi, 2019).

In practical contexts, Islamic teachings on tolerance are illustrated through the historical acts of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who engaged with and negotiated peacefully with non-Muslim communities. This historical precedent reinforces the notion of inclusiveness and dialogue, which remains essential in contemporary interfaith interactions (Kholid, 2023). For example, Islamic educators emphasize the importance of incorporating lessons on tolerance and respect for others' beliefs in religious curricula, underlining that this is crucial for fostering a harmonious multi-religious society (Putra & Suyadi, 2022). However, while the Quran promotes tolerance, there are differing views on its implications across the Islamic world. Some interpretations lean toward exclusivism, asserting that Islam is the ultimate truth, thereby framing relationships with other faiths as hierarchical rather than equal (Dağ, 2022). Conversely, pluralist perspectives within Islamic thought argue for a more accepting approach, which allows for coexistence without compromising one's beliefs (Barkey, 2007). In sum, Islam offers frameworks for tolerance that are enshrined in the Quran and demonstrated in the Prophet's practices. Despite varying interpretations regarding the scope and nature of that tolerance, it is clear that the foundational teachings advocate respect and kindness towards individuals of different faiths. Understanding these dimensions of tolerance in Islam can better inform interfaith dialogue and cooperation in a globally interconnected world.

The second paper is titled "Writings and Studies Related to Tuan Guru Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (1931-2015): Bibliometric Analysis Over Three Decades," by Nasir et al. The article presents a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the writings and studies associated with Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, a prominent figure in Malaysian politics and Islamic scholarship. This study contributes significantly to the field of knowledge by shedding light on the scholarly output and impact of Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's works over the past three decades. The analysis provides insights into the scope and depth of his contributions and highlights the evolving trends and themes within the field of study. The paper also serves as a valuable resource for researchers, academics, and enthusiasts interested in exploring the life and intellectual legacy of Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

This paper indicates a comprehensive examination of the literary and scholarly contributions of Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, a prominent figure in Malaysia known for his influence in Islamic scholarship and politics. Understanding the historical context of Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's influence is critical. His role in Malaysian politics, particularly through Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS), is documented in studies, including Ali and Yusuf's examination of his leadership and ideological framework (Ali & Yusuf, 2021), and Ahmad and Baharudin's exploration of his contributions to Islamic teachings, particularly in the interpretation of the Quran (Ahmad & Baharudin, 2022). These contributions illustrate how Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's work has significantly shaped discussions around Islamic governance and philosophy in Malaysia. Hence, this paper suggests a significant academic endeavor to chart the scholarly landscape surrounding Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, offering insights into his lasting imprint on Islamic thought in Malaysia and beyond. The study would illuminate trends in publication related to his contributions and provide a contextual understanding of his role in shaping modern Islamic discourse.

Included in this June 2023 issue is an exciting topic by Othman et al. titled "Religiosity Level and Perceived Social Support for the Psychological Well-Being of Muslim Undergraduate Nursing Students." This paper expands the empirical understanding of the psychological well-being of Muslim nurses by examining the impact of two protective factors: religiosity level and perceived family support. The study provides an example of how protective factors can benefit the mental health of Muslim healthcare workers and other religious health professionals by focusing on undergraduate nursing students.

The paper serves as a synthesis of several critical concepts pertinent to understanding the interactions between spiritual beliefs, social relationships, and mental health, particularly within a specific demographic group: Muslim undergraduate nursing students (Ratanasiripong, 2012). The paper suggests a multivariate study examining how religiosity and perceived social support interact to affect the psychological well-being of

Muslim nursing students. The interplay among these variables can provide insights into effective support strategies in educational and clinical environments. Understanding these dynamics is crucial, as it may inform the development of culturally competent mental health interventions within nursing programs (Jamaludin, 2019). Thus, this paper encapsulates an important area of inquiry that examines critical factors influencing mental health. By focusing on the intersection of spirituality and social relationships within a specific educational demographic, the research could contribute significantly to improving the support systems for nursing students and fostering environments conducive to both academic success and psychological resilience.

Mohd Ghazi et al. wrote the following paper titled “The Role of Mainstream Media and Christian Organisations in Shaping South Korean Views on Islam and Muslims: A Historical Study.” This paper contributes to the field of knowledge by shedding light on the broader dynamics of media influence and religious organisations’ role in shaping societal perceptions of Islam and Muslims. The comprehensive historical analysis offers a foundation for further scholarly investigations into the intersection of media, religion, and public opinion formation. Furthermore, the insights provided in this study can inform policymakers, interfaith dialogue initiatives, and advocacy organisations working towards fostering greater understanding and tolerance among different religious communities in South Korea. This paper expands our understanding of the complex interplay between media, religion, and social attitudes, significantly contributing to the field.

This paper reveals a complex interplay between media narratives and religious organizations in forming societal perceptions of Islam in South Korea. This analysis is particularly vital due to the historical context and the contemporary implications of rising Islamophobia in the country.

South Korea’s media landscape has often been characterized by a critical stance towards Islam, largely influenced by sensationalism and political agendas. According to Mohd Ghazi et al., South Korean media has significantly shaped public perceptions of Islam through negative portrayals, particularly in the wake of global events that have associated Islam with terrorism, such as the September 11 attacks. Koo supports this by highlighting that post-9/11, the Korean public’s understanding of Islam became increasingly distorted, leading to widespread Islamophobia, which is partially fueled by a lack of direct engagement with Muslim communities and a reliance on mainstream media representations (Koo, 2018). This dynamic reinforces the argument that media narratives are not only reflective of societal attitudes but also actively construct them. Moreover, Christian organizations in South Korea have historically played a pivotal role in shaping these narratives, often framing Islam as a counterpoint to Christian values. Robertson discusses how evangelical literature post-9/11 contributed to framing Islam within a context of threat, significantly influencing public perception (Robertson, 2014). The negative framing by Christian organizations is often mirrored in mainstream media, creating a feedback loop that obstructs positive engagement with Muslim communities.

The youth’s perspective on Islam represents a critical front in this discourse. Mohd Ghazi et al. assert that, despite traditional narratives perpetuated by older generations, the younger demographic increasingly seeks to counter these Islamophobic narratives through social media platforms, indicating a shift in engagement strategies that may promote positive dialogues about Islam. This juxtaposition of historic influences and emerging counter-narratives illustrates a significant evolution in the perception landscape, suggesting that while mainstream media and Christian organizations continue to exert considerable influence, there is a growing challenge to these views from within South Korean society itself. Additionally, the burgeoning halal tourism industry reflects changing perceptions, as both government policies and popular culture increasingly accommodate Muslim practices, suggesting a nuanced reconciliation of views that have traditionally been shaped by media and religious rhetoric (Marlinda et al., 2021). The perceived necessity of addressing the halal tourism market illustrates an economic motivation that may soften previously held biases, presenting an opportunity for more nuanced and positive representations of Islam in the public domain. From here, the interplay of mainstream media narratives and the influence of Christian organizations in South Korea has historically fostered negative perceptions of Islam. However, contemporary shifts in youth engagement and economic interests signal potential pathways toward a more balanced understanding of Islam and Muslims, suggesting that while the historical context continues to play a role, future perceptions may increasingly diverge from entrenched stereotypes.

The Arabic paper for this issue is titled “Phonological Analysis for Liquids Rules in al-Sūsī of Abī ‘Amr Narration,” by Mohamad Isa et al. This article provides findings that other researchers can study to contribute new findings for future research. As for the phonology field, the results show that liquid sounds and rules are applied in Arabic and other languages. Two main features or traits, [+ repeated] and [+ side], play roles in changing liquid sounds. The findings also show that the Quranic narrations have various samples and data to be analysed and can contribute to many other fields. These findings contribute to the phonological data and the Quranic narrations field, which can be diverted as big data that can be referred to in future studies.

Mohd Noor et al. paper titled “Badī’ al-Zamān Sa’īd Nursī’s Approach Through Writing in Da’wah: A Study of Effective Verbal Communication,” contributes to at least three groups: researchers in the field of

communication, preachers (*dā'ī*), and the *Tullāb al-Nūr* (students and researchers of *Rasā'il al-Nūr*), especially in Malaysia. For students in Islamic communication, this study adds to their knowledge about the importance of writing methods, especially by any Islamic figure, as an effective preaching approach. For *dā'ī* in Malaysia, this study is expected to improve their techniques and approaches when delivering *da'wah* while introducing famous 20th-century *da'wah* figures to them. While for *Tullāb al-Nūr*, it is part of the reference and collection of scientific studies about *Rasā'il al-Nūr* in Malaysia.

This paper encapsulates the intricate relationship between the written discourse of the influential Islamic scholar and the practice of *da'wah*, or Islamic missionary work, through effective communication strategies. This reflection will detail Nursī's methodological approaches, the significance of his writings, and the impact of his communication practices in enhancing the effectiveness of *da'wah*. Nursī is recognized for his unique utilization of written communication as a primary vehicle for conveying Islamic teachings and promoting religious understanding. Noor et al. assert that traditional oral preaching methods have become insufficient in contemporary contexts, advocating for an evolution towards written mediums to enhance clarity and reach wider audiences. This shift not only facilitates broader dissemination of Islamic principles but also adapts to the complexities of modern communication needs. Through his seminal work, *Rasā'il al-Nūr*, Nursī effectively communicated pivotal Islamic concepts, which greatly contributed to the global spread of his message. Moreover, Nursī's methodology in thematic exegesis as outlined by El-Khatib highlights his logical and structured approach in addressing core Islamic doctrines, such as the resurrection of the body. This ability to tackle profound theological issues through a clear and accessible written format exemplifies his extraordinary skill in engaging both intellectual inquiry and spiritual enlightenment. By responding to common doubts and objections raised against Islamic beliefs, Nursī not only fortified the faith of individuals but also fostered community resilience, making his contributions crucial in the realm of *da'wah* (El-Khatib, 2019).

Non-verbal communication also plays a significant role in effective *da'wah*, as exemplified in the study by Noor et al., which discusses Nursī's use of eye contact, facial expressions, and gestures. The integration of non-verbal elements alongside written communication enhances the clarity of the message and facilitates deeper connections with the audience. This holistic approach underscores the necessity of synchronizing both verbal and non-verbal strategies in presenting religious messages, thus reinforcing the overall effectiveness of *da'wah* efforts. The interpersonal aspects of communication in Nursī's *da'wah* are further addressed by Zulkifli and Isa, who explore his influence within specific contexts, such as Denizli prison, underscoring the importance of tailored communication strategies in engaging different demographics (Zulkifli & Isa, 2023). Such context-aware communication allows for the effective delivery of Islamic teachings and encourages adherence to spiritual principles among diverse groups, showcasing Nursī's adaptability in approach. In summary, Nursī's approach to *da'wah* through writing reflects not only a transformation in communication methodologies but also a profound understanding of the complex interplay between verbal and non-verbal aspects in effectively conveying Islamic teachings. His legacy continues to inspire contemporary approaches to *da'wah*, affirming the ongoing relevance of written discourse in fostering inclusive and effective communication strategies within Islamic communities.

The study by Habib and Nasir on fanaticism in Cordoba during the 5th century AH defines a crucial stage in Andalusia's Islamic state. The reasons for hindering the construction and dividing the Islamic civilization caused conflicts and its collapse. The paper can emphasise the contribution of Andalusian society's racial diversity to the collapse of sectarianism in the tribe, which persisted even after the establishment of the Islamic state. Furthermore, the last paper for this issue is "Divine values in engineering science: Highlights of Quranic verses and its appreciation based on Tafsīr Fi Zilāl al-Qur'ān by Sayyid Quṭb (1906-1966)," by Alpanđi et al. They found that the literature lacks sufficient discussion about Quranic verses and their impact on engineers' lives in various engineering fields. The divine values highlighted through the appreciation of verses, translations, and *Tafsīr Fi Zilāl al-Qur'ān* explain that every branch of engineering is related to the power of Allah, the Creator. Therefore, it is reasonable for a servant to make this divine value the core of the study of any field of knowledge, thus strengthening his obedience and faith in Allah.

This paper suggests a multidisciplinary exploration that intersects religious studies, engineering ethics, and the application of Quranic teachings in contemporary fields. The essence of this investigation lies in demonstrating how Quranic narratives and values can be integrated into modern engineering practices within the framework of Quṭb's *tafsīr*. The study of divine values in engineering science corresponds with growing discourses that advocate for the ethical dimensions of technological advancement. Engineering practices increasingly require a moral compass grounded in philosophical and religious ethos. Quṭb's *Tafsīr* provides a layered understanding of Quranic verses, emphasizing moral imperatives that guide human actions and decisions. This perspective aligns with the argument that religious texts can profoundly influence ethical

standards within scientific disciplines, thus reinforcing the application of divine principles in engineering outcomes (Osborne, 2019).

Qutb's *Tafsir* is particularly noteworthy due to its relevance not only as a religious commentary but also as a social critique that contextualizes Islamic teachings amidst modern challenges. His interpretations often highlight ethical responsibilities tied to social justice and the well-being of the community, which resonate with the responsibilities of engineers to serve society ethically (Huda & Pajriah, 2022). For instance, Qutb's perspectives on societal values urge engineers to consider the implications of their designs and innovations on human life. Through his discussions, one can glean how Quranic values manifest in engineering contexts, particularly in promoting sustainability and justice (Wahid et al., 2022). Moreover, the relevance of this study extends to the method by which Qutb approached *tafsir*. He employed a thematic analysis that synthesizes Quranic verses to address contemporary societal issues, including those pertinent to engineering (Firdaus & Zulaiha, 2022). The methodological insights offered in Qutb's work can serve as a foundation for developing an integrative model that enables engineers and practitioners within the field to utilize religious texts as a basis for ethical decision-making. This correlates with modern interpretations of Islamic teachings, which advocate for their contextual application in various spheres including technological practice (Abrorov et al., 2022; Mujahidin, 2018).

Furthermore, an appreciation of divine values through the lens of engineering encourages a dialogue between traditional religious scholarship and modern scientific inquiry. Such dialogues have the potential to enrich engineering education by incorporating ethical and spiritual dimensions that are often sidelined in secular curricula. The alignment of Quranic values with engineering ethics presents a pathway for creating responsible engineers who are not only technically adept but also mindful of the broader impacts of their work on society and the environment, well reflected in the studies surrounding the advancements in engineering education (Awadin & Rusmana, 2023). In conclusion, examining the intersection of divine values in engineering science through Qutb's *Tafsir* allows for a comprehensive understanding of how religious teachings can significantly contribute to the ethical dimensions of engineering practices. This interdisciplinary approach holds promise for fostering a new generation of engineers who are grounded in moral responsibility and societal awareness.

This issue of IJICI not only reinforces our dedication to advancing Islamic scholarship but also serves as a guiding light for those seeking to bridge tradition with contemporary needs. We aim to deepen readers' understanding, inspire critical thinking, and provide direction for navigating today's increasingly complex challenges. Our sincere appreciation goes out to the contributors, reviewers, and devoted readers whose unwavering support has made this publication possible. Without the collaborative efforts of everyone involved, this endeavor would not have come to life. May the knowledge shared in these pages spark meaningful action, foster societal progress, and bring broad-reaching benefits to humanity.

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