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Foreword

We are thankful towards God, the Beneficent, that merely two terms after the first publication of the "Islamic Thought" textbook, the second edition of this book has been completed and thus we present it to our esteemed professors and students.

During this time, various gatherings of experts and professors of the Islamic sciences were formed in order to critique, analyze, and receive corrective and complementary opinions on the concepts and curriculum of the book. Additionally, opinion forms were given out to professors to gather their views and make necessary corrections.

Below is a summary of the proposed changes regarding the first edition:

Correction of the structure of the introduction and coordination of the introduction with the curriculum

Balancing the proportions of the first and second book

Consolidation of the proofs of monotheism (tawh®d) in Book One

Addition of various contemporary Kalem¹ discussions related to the curriculum and the subjective concerns of students

Broadening the topic of religious administration and religious vicegerency [willyah]

In due regard to those who have graced us with their opinions, the Department of Research and Compilation of Textbooks of the Administration of Professors has made practical corrections to this series. Some of these corrections include:

Publication of the book in two separate volumes: The first volume, entitled "Islamic Thought: Book One", consists of topics concerning God, humanity, the world, and the afterworld. The second collection, entitled "Islamic Thought: Book Two", is comprised of the subjects of prophethood [nubuwah], Imamate, religious authority [marja'sah], and religious vicegerency [wilsyah]. The proportions of these books have been adapted to two study units each.

The structure of the introduction has been adapted to conform to the curriculum suggested by the Administration. This modified chapter has been named "Religion in the Modern World" which investigates the crises of modern humanity and related causes and factors and explains the function of religion in resolving these crises.

In the discussion concerning theology, while elucidating the methods of realizing God, the "Kal®m Cosmological Argument" has been discussed in detail in the section entitled "The Way of Intellect".

The policy of the Administration regarding introduction of contemporary Kal®m discussions into the book was to do so gradually while simultaneously observing the necessary symmetry of the topics. Therefore, issues such as religious experience, benefits of religion, science and religion, and polytheism [kithrat gir®®] have been introduced and existing materials have been enhanced in the second edition.

In this edition, the discussions concerning eschatology [ma'd] and Imamate have been revised and the discussions on Imamate have been broadened. Additionally, discussions on religious authority [marja'lah] and religious vicegerency [willyah] have been revised in order to increase content accuracy and adjust the volume of this discussion. Furthermore, we have endeavored to answer all questions concerning these topics.

In spite of all these changes, we believe that not everything required in a study book has been compiled within this series. Although addition of details such as context questions, explanation of important terms, and research topics and references for students was kept in mind, due to timetable issues we have deferred greater detail to a later date.

We hope that, with the help of God, we may soon rewrite this book with improved content and also include current academic debates and better align this book with the characteristics of standard textbooks. Forwarding the opinions of professors, students, and experts will greatly help in quickly and easily creating a more favorable and exemplary book.

Finally, we wish to thank the esteemed authors of this book, Hujjat ul-Islem wa I-Muslimen Ale Riee Amene, Doctor Muhsin Javede, Hujjat ul-Islem wa al-Muslimen Amer Devene, and Doctor Muhammad Sa'ede-Mihr. We also wish to express our thanks to the respected editor Mr. Riee Bebe'e and all those who helped type, correct, and prepare this compilation.

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Office of the Supreme Leader in the Universities

1. – Kalam is one of the religious sciences of Islam similar to dialectic theology. [trans.]

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