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Foreword

In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful

The invaluable legacy of the Household [Ahlul Bayt] of the Prophet (may peace be upon them all), as preserved by their followers, is a comprehensive school of thought that embraces all branches of Islamic knowledge.

This school has produced many brilliant scholars who have drawn inspiration from this rich and pure resource. It has given many scholars to the Muslim *ummah* who followed the footsteps of Im®ms of the Prophet's Household ('a), and have done their best to clear up the doubts raised by various creeds and currents within and outside the Muslim society to answer their questions. Throughout the past centuries, they have given well–reasoned answers and clarifications concerning these questions and doubts.

To meet the responsibilities assigned to it, the Ahlul Bayt World Assembly (ABWA) has embarked on a defense of the sanctity of the Islamic message and its verities, often obscured by the partisans of various sects and creeds as well as by currents hostile to Islam. The Assembly follows the footsteps of the *Ahlul Bayt* ('a) and disciples of their school of thought in its readiness to confront these challenges and tries to be on the frontline in consonance with the demands of every age.

The arguments contained in the works of the scholars belonging to the School of the *Ahlul Bayt* ('a) are of unique significance, because they are based on genuine scholarship, appeal to reason, and avoid prejudice and bias. These arguments address scholars and thinkers in a manner that appeals to healthy minds and wholesome human nature.

To assist the seekers of truth, the Ahlul Bayt World Assembly has endeavored to present a new phase of these arguments contained in the studies and translations of the works of contemporary Shi 'ah writers and those who have embraced this sublime school of thought through divine blessings.

The Assembly is also engaged in edition and publication of the valuable works of leading Sh[®] 'ah scholars of earlier ages to assist the seekers of the truth in discovering the truths which the School of the Prophet's Household ('a) has offered to the entire world.

The Ahlul Bayt World Assembly looks forward to benefit from the opinions of the readers and their suggestions and constructive criticism in this area.

We also invite scholars, translators and other institutions to assist us in propagating the genuine Islamic teachings as preached by the Prophet Muhammad (S).

We beseech God, the Most High, to accept our humble efforts and to enable us to enhance them under the auspices of Im al-Mahd, his vicegerent on the earth (may Allah expedite his advent).

We express our gratitude to Mr. Muhammad 'Al® Chan®r®n® (May Allah bless his soul), the author of the present book, and Mr. Kelvin Lembani (Muhammad 'Abd al–'Az®z), its translator. We also thank our colleagues who have participated in producing this work, especially the staff of the Translation Office.

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