

The Role of Bond in Islamic Jurisprudence

Seyed Mohammad Moosavi Bojnordi

While giving his description of bond and its legal nature, the author studies the issue of bond with regard to religious tax (one fifth levy), the tax of gold and silver, loan, dowry, wastage of wealth, usurpation and blood-money.

He also offers his own approach towards some fihi issues and discusses the impact of the inflation rate on rising prices and reduction of the purchasing power of money.

Intuition and the Inexpressible

Renford Bambrough

Tr. by: Morteza Qarai

In the present article Renford Bambrough, concentrates on the traditional elucidation of the inexpressible by Rudolf Otto. Relying on a Wittgensteinian approach, he discusses the nature of reason and its achievement. Moreover, he precisely touches certain issues about man's understanding of gnostic and ordinary experiences and the nature of their elucidation. Bambrough might be classified as an anti-positivist, though of its sophisticated and developed type. His main emphasis is on the point that we should not focus our attention on the impossible issue and should not "try to settle bounds and limits to what can be understood and to what can be expressed."

Mystical Experience, Mystical Doctrine, Mystical Technique

Peter Moore

Tr. by: Seyed Mahmoud Yousef Sani

In the present article, in addition to preparing a ground for a hermeneutic, epistemological approach to the gnostic experience, Peter Moore follows two main objectives: cognition and classification of the phenomenological features of gnostic experience; and, research in the ontological and epistemological status of this experience. The present article is important because of two reasons: one, precise discussion of philosophical issues, and second, attempts to offer a phenomenological explanation for a better understanding and analysis of the available data on Gnostic experience. The author has also tried to show that the attempts of the predecessors for offering an epistemological framework for the study of gnosticism do not enjoy conceptual precision -- a framework without which all claims related to the existence of a common core in Gnostic experiences are rendered baseless.

Religion and Modernization in Iran

Yahya Fouzi

The article discusses conformity or nonconformity of Shiite religion with modernization in the light of various modernization theories and a typology of various approaches to the Shiite school of thought. The author believes that it is not possible to speak about conformity or unconformity of religion and modernization in an absolute term; he believes that some religious approaches have more conformity with certain theories of modernization.

In the present article the author has tried to study the conformity of Imam Khomeini's approaches to the Shiite school of thought and their conformity with the theories of modernization. The hypothesis of the present article is that Imam Khomeini's fiqhi and theological approaches to Shiite religion have several proximities with the new theories of modernization. The author has studied Imam Khomeini's practical stands and theoretical approaches before and after the Islamic Revolution, including his stands on the Shah's modernization programs and the modernization programs of the post-revolution era.

An Introduction to Structural Study of Imam Khomeini's Poems

Ahad Faramarz Qaramaleki

Whenever there is any discussion of Imam Khomeini's poems, such questions as falsehood, truthfulness, truth and their status come to the fore. In the light of the theory that considers three stages for poem-beauty of garment, body and soul--the truth of Imam's poem stems from his deep ontological experiences which equals the poems of Moulavi and Hafiz. The language of Imam's poem goes beyond the experiences of the philosophers, theologians, sufis, and gnostics; his is language of lover who does not see anything except the beauty of the beloved. The experience of describing the beauty of the beloved, understanding and witnessing the relations of God with the universe, considering any beauty as transient, and inner commitment or the obedience of the freemen, are four angles of the truth of superiority of Imam's poems which are the inner secrets of man's existence.

Gnosticism and Coasts of Existence

Fatemeh Tabatabai

The cognition of the connecting link between the universe and the Creature of existence is among the issues that has been attempted by all thinkers and has made the Gnostic and philosopher to try to decipher this enigma in their own manner. Although there are differences between the world of the philosophers and Gnostics, the permeating truth of "being" and existence has brought the two closer to one another who, after putting difficult bottlenecks of refutation and confirmation behind, have reached a common point through utilizing each other's experiences and resources. In the present article, the author has tried to cast a glimpse at the attitude of the gnostics towards the philosophers by relying on their own statements and also tried to study their common points. At the end, the author has elaborated on various stations of existence or the five-presence and concluded that while in the process of descension, the great divine representative or perfect human being is the medium of creation and perfection of beings, in the arch of ascension too perfect man is the medium of blessing of perfection and return of all beings to the Creature.

The Status of Gnosticism in the Classification of Sciences

Biuk Alizadeh

Without any doubt detailed acquaintance with a branch of science is possible only when one has a complete command of all its issues and details. But a brief acquaintance with a science is attained through a review of its fundamentals, outlines, methodology, its interconnection with other branches and man's need to that science, etc. Such an acquaintance is necessary in the beginning of learning and teaching of any branch of science. The predecessors used to call these issues the "eight topics".

In an attempt to study the status of gnosticism in the classification of sciences, the author has tried in this article to discuss the aforementioned issues in relation to gnosticism and has tried to open a vantage to the philosophy of gnosticism.

English Abstracts of Essays

Caution Contract and Its Role in Civil Rights

Seyed Mohammad Moosavi Bojnordi

Caution contract is one of the Islamic contracts which is discussed in this article in four chapters.

Discussing the literal meaning of the word caution, the author divides it into three kinds, that is, exchange-based, automatic or natural, and contractual and discusses the contractual caution from the viewpoints of various jurists.

In the second chapter, he discusses the viewpoints of the Imamiyah jurists about the nature of caution, that is, its contractual or obligatory framework. He concludes that most Imamiyah jurists do not deem it necessary to follow ceremonial rules and regulations of contract with regard to the caution contract.

In the third chapter, while stating the three theories of covenant of protection, standing surety for each other, and bail, the author discusses the impacts of caution and reviews the viewpoints of the religious scholars in this regard.

In the last chapter, the caution and its conditions with regard to various issues are discussed. The author also discusses all the relevant sub-branches.

Introduction to the Mystical Tradition

Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Tr. by: Masoud Sadeqi Ali-Abadi

Without any doubt Islamic gnosticism and philosophy, which have put behind many ups and downs in their history, enjoy privileges and profoundness which are not found in other philosophies and gnosticisms. Hence they cannot be easily overlooked. It is not possible to understand Islamic philosophy without an understanding of the significance of Islamic gnosticism and its impact on the main figures of Islamic philosophy, from Farabi to Avicenna to the contemporary figures. Likewise, it is not possible to understand the Islamic gnosticism whose development and growth, to a great extent, have been influenced by the Islamic philosophy without an understanding of the latter. In the present article, Seyyed Hossein Nasr discusses the relations and historical connections of Islamic gnosticism and philosophy. He offers certain clues which facilitate the understanding of interdependence of these two branches.

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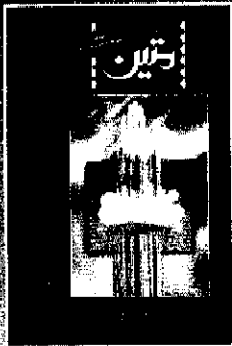
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7 2000
Second year / Summer 1379

PAZHUHESHNAMEH MATIN

QUARTERLY
JOURNAL OF
INSTITUTE OF
IMAM KHOMAINI AND
ISLAMIC REVOLUTION

سازمان اسناد و کتابخانه ملی



- **Proprietor:** The Research Institute of Imam Khomeini (RA) and Islamic Revolution
 - **Editor-in-Chief:** Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi Bojnurdi
 - **Acting Editor-in-Chief:** Fatima Tabatabaie
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 - **Mail Address:** 173. Shohadaye Gendarmerie Alley, Davazdah Farrvardin ST. Enqelab Ave. Tehran-Iran
 - **Fax:** 6499190
 - **Telephone:** 6499190-2
 - **Single Issue Price:** 7500 Rls
 - **Lithography, Printing and Binding:** Ebláq Pub., No. 42, M.Kuchek-Khán St., Jomhúri Ave., Tel: 6718280.
- Materials included in Matin Scholarly Review fail to necessarily express the viewpoints of the Research Institute of Imam Khomeini (RA) and Islamic Revolution.
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