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به نام خداوند بخشنده مهربان

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Publisher's Forword

To begin and execute a research is like walking in the path of development and evolvement. When the seeds of the "questions" are planted, in the soil of the mind of the researcher, this phase initiates, and its end is culminated when the result and the outcome of knowledge and wisdom is gained.

Evidently, this end is a new chapter in itself, for growth, and announces beforehand this good news to humans. For the result of all those mental efforts will not only bring the blooming and flowering of talent and all kinds of Blessings to humans, but it also makes the mind of the researcher to ponder and shape new, more questions.

This will produce a great collection of growing plants and flowers for the seeking mind... Those "questions" are in fact, the seeds, which according to the necessities of Time and the strength of the researchers will grow and bloom by themselves. They will make Culture and Civilization to move forward.

In like manner, the increasing rate of transferring oneself from one place to another place and the decrease of the distances will make those seeds travel miles and miles, to faraway places, in order to install them inside the curious mind of other seekers. This will bring an amazing diversity and a novelty for another civilization...

It is true then, that the presence of knowledge and a good, capable management will help this project to develop itself and one has to admit indeed, that it has always played an important role...

Al-Mustafa International Publication and Translation Center, because of its global mission, and its special position among the Religious Schools and the colorful human diversity that it has developed inside itself, sees it as a moral duty to procure all the appropriate conditions for any research works, and takes its role in this matter, most seriously. To procure all kinds of necessary grounds, with an excellent management of all the existing possibilities and talents, and to care and protect all its researchers in religious fields; these are the most crucial responsibilities of the Department of Research in this International center.

We dearly hope that by being attentive to all these autonomous scientific movements, and by fortifying all the existing motives, we shall be able to witness the blooming of the Religious Culture in every part of this wide world!

**Al-Mustafa International
Publication and Translation Center**

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Preface

Islam must be recognized as the religion of knowledge and education for the prosperity of mankind in this world and in the hereafter. The Holy Qur'an and Ahl al-Bayt emphasize on education and knowledge. Moreover, science and the scholars are acknowledged more than piety and pious persons. Based on the religious teachings, the human status is determined in accordance with one's level of knowledge and to the extent he acts upon his knowledge. Thus it is stated in the Holy Qur'an that, afterwards all the knowledge of the names (al-Asma'a), were taught to Adam, the angels were ordered to prostrate before him. (Holy Qur'an 2:31)

The mission of the holy prophets, messengers of God and the religious preachers, is to advance the human knowledge. That is because proximity to God is attained by knowledge and acting upon that knowledge, just as the worldly power and dominance, could be obtained by them. Imam Ali (a.s) stated: "knowledge is power, one who acquires it, will win and one who doesn't, will be defeated".

Based on such thinking, Iranian authorities founded al-Mustafa International University (MIU) in order to influence the world through producing pious scholars and thinkers with the aim of disseminating pure Islamic thoughts, bettering the lot of Muslim community and creating a great Islamic civilization.

Having established academic educational and research centers in Iran and in various parts of the world, MIU has rendered great and profound services to science and knowledge. Training more than one hundred thousand students in the fields of humanities and Islamic sciences, writing and publishing numerous books and journals and holding workshops, academic meetings and conferences, are some of the valuable services MIU has offered.

Al-Mustafa International research Institute (MIRI), one of the MIU branches was founded in 2008 with the aims to achieve MIU's great objectives in distributing and spreading the teachings of pure Islam and to take steps to promote humanities and Islamic sciences.

This institute has the following research centers: Islamic Sciences (with 6 academic departments); Humanities (with 8 academic departments); Religions and Denominations (with 3 academic departments); Regional studies (with 4 academic departments); Islam and the West. MIRI also includes general managements of translation and text book compilation as well as the Secretariat of Interfaith Dialogue and the Secretariat of Sheikh Tousi International Festival (biennial). It has thus far accomplished about 1000 academic works in different languages.

The general management of translation translates academic religious works for MIU and has so far accomplished more than 100 works in 16 languages such as Arabic, English, French, Urdu, Hausa, Turkish, Azeri, Kurdish, Pashto, Filipino, Sindhi, Bengali, Italian, Spanish etc. Many of these works are published and are available to general audience and MIU students in and outside of Iran.

The present work which is translated by Dr. Mahdi Islami and Dr. Mahdi Dehqani Firozabadi with the endeavor of MIRI into English is among the publications on jurisprudence with educational/research content.

We hereby thank all those who helped us in preparation and translation of this work especially Dr.

Mahdi Islami and Dr. Mahdi Dehqani Firozabadi, the translators, Muhammad Reza Farajiyani Shushtari, the editor and our colleagues in MIU.

We earnestly ask our dear readers to kindly share their views concerning this book with us using this email address: Gdt.miu@gmail.com

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