



Imam Mahdi

The Essence of Creation

by
Amin Baladaṣṭiyan, Muahammad Mahdi Haeripour
and **Mahdi Yusufiyan**

Translated by
Sayyid Abdur-Rauf Afzali



Al-mustafa International
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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 highly 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**

Foreword

Imam Mahdi: The Essence of Creation coauthored by Mr. Muhammad Amin Baladastiyan, Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Haeripour, and Mr. Mahdi Yusufiyan is a highly valuable textbook written to meet the needs of basic courses on Mahdaviat.

There are nowadays plenty of books available on Mahdaviat, but they cannot meet the needs of basic courses on Mahdaviat, for they are either too lengthy and complicated or too short and shallow lacking the necessary information on the subject under question. To meet this end, the authors joined hands and wrote what is now before your eyes.

Being designed as a textbook, it touches on a wide range of issues from the birth of Imam Mahdi to his reappearance. Consisting of fifteen lessons, it sheds light on issues such as the importance of the question of Mahdaviat, Imam Mahdi's signs and attributes, his occultation, the uses of his occultation, his long life, his government and waiting for him. It also discusses the issue of Mahdaviat from the viewpoint of the Quran and tradition. The traditions this book deals with are not restricted to Shiite traditions alone. It treats the issue from the perspective of Sunni traditions as well.

Though this work is supposed to be short and concise, it has not ignored vital issues related to the issue under discussion. It is based on such an outlook that this book deals, among other issues, with the issue of the challenges that face the doctrine of Mahdaviat. It surveys these challenges and answers them from a strong logical position.

Though the time in which the translation was supposed to be accomplished was very short and limited extensive efforts were made so that the rendering be done with utmost care and accuracy. Despite all these the translator humbly acknowledges that if there is any shortcoming it goes not to the dear authors but to the limitations with which the translator was faced. The translator welcomes any suggestions that may lead to the improvement of this work though in future editions.

Dr. Sayyid Abdur Rauf Afzali

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Introduction

Mahdaviat has been [and is] a well-known subject matter in the history of Islamic culture. Many precious works have dealt with this issue, ranging from those written over a thousand years ago to a thousand of other works presently available in libraries¹.

Each one of these works has its own particular style and rationale, compiled to meet certain scholarly and propagatory goals or to give an answer to certain skepticisms.

What is not available in this vast literature is a work designed to be used as a textbook on Mahdaviat. This prompted Mahdaviat Specialized Center to undertake the task of writing *Imam Mahdi: The Essence of Creation* to meet this demand.

Though the early editions of this work had their own articulations, they failed however to have the full structure of a textbook. Given our societies are in dire need of knowing about such a topic and given it is necessary to let people know about the issue of Mahdaviat, the Center, having taken a new attitude, decided to rearticulate the book and give it the structure of a textbook.

In the end, we would like to thank Mr. Muhammad Amin Baladastiyani, Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Haeripour, Mr. Mahdi

1. For further details see: Reference works on Mahdaviat.

Yusufiyan, coauthors and Mr. Ruhullah Shakiri Zawardihi, Qanbarali Samadi and Muhammad Reza Nasuri, the researchers who have helped us reedit this work.

It is hoped that this work will attract the attention of scholars who are expected as before to benefit us through their worthy directions and criticisms.

This book is compiled to be used for elementary courses on Mahdaviat. For complimentary materials on this subject matter, students can refer to [other] Mahdaviat textbooks published by the same Center.

Imamate and Mahdaviat Specialized Center
Qom Seminary