

## Preface / Vorwort

Bülent Ucar\*

---

Dear Readers,

We are extremely pleased to be able to present the second issue of this year's volume, containing contributions on a variety of topics. In the opening article Hüseyin Ucar considers the requirements Muslim scholars in the AH second century needed to meet in order to be able to interpret the main sources of Islam and convey its doctrines to society, and how they then ultimately gained acceptance amongst the Muslim community as a religious authority. Ucar focuses on two renowned figures of early Islamic learning: Sufyān at-Tawrī (d. 161/778) and Sufyān b. 'Uyayna (d. 198/814). By considering both scholars as well as a broad spectrum of their teachers and pupils, Ucar attempts to provide an overview of those qualities which the majority of Muslims at the time generally considered necessary for attaining the status of religious authority. To begin, Ucar sheds light on the most important social, political and scientific developments of the AH second century before then turning his attention to the specific criteria needed for gaining authority. The second article by Ayşe Başol is a written and revised versions of a lecture the author gave in 2016 at the DIRS of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg as part of a workshop on "Reform Thinking between Text and Context." The article undertakes a comparative study of the verses 28-34 of sura 33 *al-Aḥzāb* and three selected hadiths, taken from the biography collection "*at-Ṭabaqāt*" compiled by Ibn Sa'd (d. 230/845) and the two hadith collections "*al-Musnad*" compiled by Aḥmad b. Ḥanbal (d. 241/855) and "*aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ*" by Muslim (d. 261/875). The verse passages relate that the wives of the Prophet Muhammad were given the choice of either continuing or ending their marriage with the Prophet. Should they decide to continue they were then given rules of conduct, which if followed would ensure salvation in heaven. The selected hadiths serve to expound on the Quran passage. In a separate step, Başol analyses the form and content of the verses and the three traditions, laying the basis for comparing the hadiths and then relating them to the relevant verses. In her conclusion Başol then presents the major points of how the hadiths relate to one another and to the verse passage respectively.

Muhammad Mustafa Al-Azami is one of the most renowned contemporary Muslim scholars in the area of Quran and hadith studies. Last year Al-Azami died at the age of 87 in his home in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. To honour his outstanding

---

\* Prof. Dr. Bülent Ucar, editor of the Hikma, is Professor for Islamic Studies and Religious Education at Osnabrück University, where he is also the Director of the Institute of Islamic Theology (IIT).

career and host of important studies, we have included a commemorative piece by his student Taris Ahmad-von Velasco in this issue. In the “Translation” rubric we present Jens Bakker’s translation of a concise standard work of classic Sunnite theology, “*al-Ḥarīda al-bahiyya*” by Aḥmad b. Muḥammad ad-Dardīr (d. 1201/1786). A didactic poem, this work is made up of 71 verses in metrical language. In terms of content it addresses pivotal themes bearing on the area of Sunnite dogmatics (*uṣūl ad-dīn*). The idea to translate this poem arose in a teaching context at the Institute for Islamic Theology at the University of Osnabrück, where Bakker took to heart a student’s advice to translate the poem for the seminar “Introduction to the Statements of Faith in Islam – *uṣūl ad-dīn*.” The editorial team at Hikma hope that publishing this translation will contribute to making available teaching and research material for Islam Studies at German universities. The October edition of this year’s volume concludes with an interview Mahmoud Haggag Rashidy conducted with the eminent Catholic theologian Hans Zirker, well known for his interdisciplinary and interreligious approach. Zirker has translated the Quran and compiled a detailed Quran transliteration. In the interview Zirker explains the motivation for his extensive study of Islam and gives his views on the reception of the Quran and the current situation of Islam in Germany.

Osnabrück, October 2018

Bülent Ucar