

CONTEMPORARY APPROACHES
to THE QUR'AN AND SUNNAH

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o b e i k a n . c o m

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Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an and Sunnah is a collection of specially selected papers presented at the 2008 Summer Institute for Scholars convened at the IIIT headquarters in Herndon, Virginia, USA. The purpose of the annual Summer Institute is to bring together and engage senior and young scholars with a particular interest or expertise in Qur'anic Studies or the Sunnah. The essays making up this collection, categorized as chapters, are comprised of diverse writings on various significant subjects relating to the Qur'an and Sunnah.

The Qur'an and Sunnah are the two primary sources of Muslim faith, life, law and piety. The Qur'an, being the divine communication or revelation, (*waḥy*), is for Muslims the foundation of their faith, and the Sunnah, or life-example of the Prophet Muhammad, is the framework of their morality. Together they constitute the two sources of the law (Shari'ah) and guide to prosperity and happiness in this life and to the bliss of the hereafter. Although the Qur'an and Sunnah, being Divine inspiration (*ilhām*), are materially and formally two independent sources, they are inextricably bound in a dynamic relationship. The rulings and precepts (*ahkam*) of the Qur'an constitute the law (*shar*) of God. They are supplemented by the precepts of the authentic Sunnah, which possess authority second only to the precepts of the Qur'an. The Qur'an is the Book (*Kitāb*) and the Sunnah is the wisdom (*ḥikmah*) with which Muhammad, the last prophet of God, was sent to guide humankind to the straight way (*al-ṣirāṭ al-mustaqīm*), which leads to God. This book seeks to serve as a reminder to Muslims and non-Muslims of the place

of the Qur'an and Sunnah in the life of Muslim societies around the world.

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