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Mehdi Golshani



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# CONTENTS

<b>Preface .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Chapter 1.....</b>	<b>9</b>
Islam and the Sciences of Nature: Some Fundamental Questions	
<b>Chapter 2 .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Ways of Understanding Nature in the Qur'anic Perspective	
<b>Chapter 3 .....</b>	<b>47</b>
How to Make Sense of 'Islamic Science'?	
<b>Chapter 4 .....</b>	<b>79</b>
Islam, Science and Society	
<b>Chapter 5 .....</b>	<b>89</b>
Values and Ethical Issues in Science and Technology: A Muslim Perspective	
<b>Chapter 6.....</b>	<b>113</b>
Does science Offer Evidence of a Transcendental Reality and Purpose?	
<b>Chapter 7 .....</b>	<b>137</b>
The Nature of Knowledge in Science and Religion	
<b>Chapter 8 .....</b>	<b>149</b>
Future Science Needs a More Comprehensive Framework	

## PREFACE

The relation of science and religion in Islam has been one of the hot topics of the last hundred and fifty years. An important fact is that the progress of science and technology in the West has had a great impact on the Muslim societies. The Islamic World has tried to absorb Western science and its by-products, and with this it has absorbed some of the metaphysical and social implications of the contemporary science. The relation of science and religion, however, has been a controversial issue in the West, and these controversies have been transferred to the Muslim academic circles.

This book tries to shed light on some of the issues concerning the relation of Islam and science. The chapters of this book are based on the articles published earlier in various international journals and publications. Here I would like to express my deep gratitude to the editors and publishers of these publications for their permission to reprint them here. The original sources of these publications are listed as follows, and it is in the order of their appearance in this book.

- "Islam and the Sciences of Nature: Some Fundamental Questions", *Islamic Studies*, 89, No. 4, 2000, 597.
- "Ways of Understanding Nature", in *The Interplay Between Scientific Theological Worldviews (SSTH6/1998)*, ed. By N.H. Gregersen et al. (Geneva: Labor et Fides, 1999).

- "How to Make Sense of 'Islamic Science'", American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, 17, No. 3, 2000, 1.
- "Seek Knowledge Even If It Is in China", Metanexus Views, Nov. 11, 2002. Chapter IV is a shortened version of this article.
- "Values and Ethical Issues in Science and Technology", Islamic Studies, 42, No. 2, 2003.
- "Does Science Offer Evidence of a Transcendental Reality and Purpose", Islam and Science, 1, June 2003, 45; This was originally presented at the Science and the Spiritual Quest Conference (Berkeley, June, 1998).
- "The Nature of Knowledge in Science and Religion", Studies in Science & Theology, edited by Dirk Evers, Antje Jackelene, and Taede A. Smedes (Germany: Forum Scientiarum, 2010).
- "Future Science Needs a more Comprehensive Framework", Energy for Sustainable development and Science for the Future of the Islamic World and Humanity (Amman, Jordan: Islamic World Academy of Sciences, 2006).

I hope and pray that this humble effort may contribute to a better understanding of the issues at the interface of Islam and science.

*Mehdi Golshani*

*Tehran*

*October 2012*