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Jurisprudence of the Economic System of Islam

Volume I

Mohsen Araki

**Translated by:
Abdulaziz Daftari**

*Al-Mustafa International
Translation and Publication Center*

Publisher's Foreword

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 work, 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 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**

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The introduction by the research department

Truth is the most original, most eternal and beautiful secret of existence and the need of man in whose path so many believers and sincere scholars have lost their lives, and the foolish and the worshippers of falsehood have devised so many plots and tricks to wipe it out and metamorphose it. What a bitter reality is the oppressed state of truth, and what a sweet truth is the reality that in the everlasting battle between truth and falsehood, truth is glorious and proud and falsehood is vanishing and down inverted. This high status and prominence of truth, apart from its nature, is owing to the sincere and unceasing efforts of the truth-seekers who have devoted their efforts to the arenas of theory and practice and have set themselves free from the traps of the world. Among them, the role and influence of the divine religions and prophets, particularly Islam and the holy prophet [of this religion] and his truthful and honorable successors, are the most outstanding.

The renowned Shia scholars have recognized their momentous and unique mission to utilize the intellect and traditions and to dive in the sea of Qur'anic knowledge and to take the pure essence of truth from the conduct of those leaders and to present it to humanity and to strongly defend [the truth] against the invasions of the worshippers of darkness who turn away from truth; and in this path, they have exhausted their eyes and laid

down their lives. Now, in the age of the crisis of spirituality, when the enemies of truth and humanity are trying to dominate the world through producing and distributing countless written and visual productions and through utilizing different advanced hardware and software tools in different arenas, the duty of the seminarian and academic truth-seekers and thinkers, and particularly the scholars of religion, becomes much greater and is exceedingly Difficult.

In the Shia world, the seminarian Researchers have excelled in philosophical, theological, expository, traditionary, juridical, (legal) methodological and the like sciences and their reflections are shining on the apex of Islamic research. In the natural and experimental sciences, as well, our researchers have made outstanding efforts and have taken promising steps and have drew nearer to their proper place in the world and they are trying to regain their deserved position in the international scientific arena through their increasing activities. However, in the realm of social sciences and humanities, the efforts of the scholars of this land have not come to fruition as is deserved by the Islamic system and the scholars have been satisfied with translations and adaptations of the ideas of others. In this field, the traces of innovations and particularly the creativities which arise from the Islamic principles are rarely found. A long way, full of challenges, is left to the desired status. Therefore, in addition to deducing, extracting, interpreting and explaining the religious teachings and organizing Islamic teachings, excavating the issues of human and social sciences from the Islamic standpoint and explaining them is of the most important aims and priorities of the scientific institutions and particularly the research centers of the seminaries.

Imam Khomeini Institute for Research and Education, in light of the affirmations of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the unceasing supports of his righteous successor, Ayatollah Khamenei (may he live long), has put effort in doing scientific and religious investigations according to the policies and objectives set by Ayatollah Muhammad Taqī Miṣbāḥ Yazdī (may God bless him) since the beginning of its foundation and has conducted fundamental, strategic and practical researches in order to address the intellectual and religious needs of the community. For the realization of this aim, the research department of the institute, in addition to planning and guiding the research students and researchers, has tried to disseminate the works of researchers, and thanks be to God, so far it has presented valuable works, to the extent of its capacity, to the Islamic community.

The present book, is an investigation in the field of economic jurisprudence which has been authored by the venerable Ayatollah Mohsen Araki (may God bless him). The main aim of the author has been to present an example of juridical efforts to present the economic system of Islam according to the Scriptures and Sunnah.

The research department is sincerely grateful to the honored author and asks the Almighty Lord to grant him ever increasing success.

The research department

Imam Khomeini Institute for Research and Education

Translator's preface

Praise and Glory be to Lord the Exalted who bestowed on his friends marks of honour and raised their ranks. And the best peace be upon Muhammad, the chosen one, and his descendants.

The present book is translation of the book *Jurisprudence of the Economic System of Islam*. It has been taken from the series of exterior economic jurisprudence lessons (a high level educational course in Qom seminary) which have been instructed by Ayatollah Araki, may God bless him, in the Qom seminary. One of the important attributes of this book is that it is mainly based on Verses and Hadiths of the Innocent Imams (peace be upon them). Additional to this, the hadiths narrated in resources of our Sunni brothers and matching them with Shi'a hadiths regarding economic issues have given a special significance to this work.

The motivation for translating this book into English, in addition to its contents which are inspired by Qur'an's verses and Islamic hadiths and are thus of a particular character, is the subject that this book deals with. Economy has had a particular importance in different eras of human's life; because continuation of humans' individual and social life depends on economic issues. Given the considerable

importance of economy for humankind, it seems impossible that the Glorious Qur'an, that pays attention to all material and spiritual needs of mankind, might have ignored the issue of economy, which is of first rate importance in organizing people's lives. In this present book, the honored author has made a great effort to explain the economic system of Islam in both micro and macro levels. He has also presented precise explanations about the most important economic schools of thought in the world and has closely analyzed them and stated their defects and has expressed fair criticisms about them. Accordingly, an appropriate introduction has been set for comparing the economic school of thought that has been brought up in Islam with the important and prevailing economic schools in the world.

Of the most important issues which have been brought up in this book are spiritual issues of economy and the influence that economy can have on people's spiritual affairs. This attribute, if not making this book unique, at least puts it among the rare books that have addressed such issues.

Presenting new topics in the field of economics, which are new even among the issues that are discussed in Islamic economy, is another special character of this present book. We hope that they will be useful for all the people of the world, whether Muslim or not, and that they would create new horizons for them in the area of economic issues.

In the translation of this book, the aim has been to preserve the terms in their original Arabic or Persian language and to transliterate them and provide a suitable equivalent for

them in English. Moreover, in places where an explanation has been required, it has been provided. Furthermore, some words or expressions for which no appropriate equivalent was found in English or where no equivalent with a meaning near the intended meaning was found, the word or expression has been transliterated and the required explanations have been provided within the text or in footnote; words such as Tahjīr and Hīyāzat are of such words.

In translating Arabic texts, whether from the verses of the holy Qur'an or the hadiths from the Innocent Imams (AS), the aim has been to provide a fluent and easy to grasp translation. Arabic texts appear in full in the text of the book, above their English translations. This facilitates the understanding of the contents of these texts for those who might be familiar with Arabic.

Where the subject has been ambiguous for the English speaking reader, some explanation has been provided in footnote.

When translating Arabic texts into English, their Persian translations have often been used. However, in some cases where the Persian translation has been vague or incomplete, the Arabic text has been the main reference for translation into English.

In cases where the Persian text has been a translation of an English text, in order to preserve the main text and for precision in presenting information, the original English text has been found and placed within the text without addition or

deletion. In doing so, the few problems that appeared in the Persian translation of these texts were eliminated as well.

In the end, it is hoped that this valuable scholarly and documented collection be useful for everyone, whether Muslim or not, and to bring the pleasures of God the Exalted.

Abdulaziz Daftari

Friday 11th November 2016

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