



Series of corrections of erroneous information published on Islam and Muslims

1

THE ISLAMIC CREED

(Study to correct the erroneous information contained in
the Encyclopaedia of Islam, published by Brill, Leiden)

by

Dr. Ali Mohieddin Al-Qara Daghi

Translated by Mimoun Mokhtari

Publications of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- ISESCO - 1418H/1997

© Copyright, ISESCO, 1997

**Photocomposition and Typesetting :
ISESCO**

Legal number : 560/97

ISBN 9981-26-086-X

Printing : Imprimerie Dedico, Salé,
Kingdom of Morocco

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preface	9
Introduction	11
Theme one : Errors contained in the Encyclopaedia of Islam concerning the Islamic creed	15
Entry titled "Allah" in the Encyclopaedia	15
First : Casting doubts on the origin of the vocable "Allah" or "ilah"	15
Second : The lack of clarity of the Qur'an in its explanation of the polytheists' creed	17
Third : Allah's epithets in the Holy Qur'an: they are expressions of perfection, not the opposite	21
Fourth : The exigencies of the sadj' (rhyme) in the Qur'an ...	25
Fifth : Muhammad's spasmodic and contradictory utterances.....	26
Sixth : A strange combination of anthropomorphics and metaphysics	27
Clearing the premises of discord, and explaining the contradiction	33
The authentic method	36
The meaning of the qualities that may ostensibly convey anthropomorphism	44
1 - Settlement upon the throne	45
2 - The meaning of "descent unto heaven", "coming unto", and "coming to pass"	52
3 - The meaning of the "face", "hands", "grasp", and other similar vocables	56

Reasons of the inclination towards exegesis	62
Conclusion.....	64
Allah's name: "Al-Bari' " is not Hebraic	64
The use of the vocable "tyrant" to describe Almighty Allah and the human beings	66
"Adh-Dharr" (the Distresser) used to describe Allah and others	67
Epithets attributed to Almighty Allah as well as to man	68
Responsibility, fate and destiny	69
The three articulations of the Holy Qur'an	69
The course taken by Islam regarding determinism generates a reasonable human being.....	75
The development of the Islamic creed and the concept of the"unicity of the existence"	78
The effect of the Hellenistic church on the Islamic creed ..	81
Theme two : Allah in the true Islamic creed	85
First : The sources of the Islamic creed	85
Second : The foundations of the Islamic creed	85
Third : The total lack of any contradiction in this Islamic creed	87
Fourth : Absence of any opposition among the Muslims regarding the obligation of belief in all that has been stated in the Book and in the Sunna	88
Fifth : The origins of discord with regard to the doctrines among the Muslim sects	91
Sixth : The language as a means of the expression of truth ..	92
Seventh : The Prophet's (PBUH) Mission	93
Eighth : The necessity to understand the anthropomorphic verses and Hadiths according to their obviated sense, in a way befitting Almighty Allah's being, while negating any	

idea of manner or likeness with human attributes.....	96
Ninth : The right method to understand the creed	97
Tenth : The pious salaf's method as a tool which enabled the expansion of Islam	100
Eleventh : The verses of the attributes are neither allegorical nor unyielding to exegesis	103
Twelfth : The sound method is founded on moderation in everything	107
Thirteenth : The different types of attributes mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and in the authentic tradition	109
Fourteenth : Knowledge of all the contents of the Book and the Sunna regarding the essence and the qualities is not a requirement for the fulfilment of the faith	118
Fifteenth : The necessity to make a distinction between the scholars' ideas and statements expressed during discussions, dialogues and controversies, and that which should be convincingly believed in	119
The Muslim's faith in Allah the Majestic and Most Exalted	120
The unifying (of Almighty Allah)	131
The fundamental ideas that the Holy Qur'an has emphasized regarding the notion of "godhood"	135
The Muslim's creed proceeds from knowledge, evidence and conviction	139
Tradition is not inconsistent with reason	144
The approach of the Holy Qur'an in firming up the creed ...	145
Our religion is a science and our science is a religion	150
Almighty Allah's due and His servant's due	153
The avails ensuing from adherence to the Islamic creed	155
Notes and references	161

Preface

The contemporary western culture has inherited, from the Middle Ages, some distorted views on Islam. Those who forged such views aimed at counteracting the resplendence of Islam, which overwhelmed the world by its abundance, guiding thus the minds towards the right way after they had gone astray, and freeing the oppressed nations from the grip of iniquity and tyranny. Those who made use of the degradation of thought, the oppression of nations, and the straying of people, could not find a better way to oppose Islam which came as a liberator of all mankind than to invent fabrications and lies, and to counterfeit truths, attempting thus to obliterate its light, to veil its truths, and to defame its message.

Although the scientific thought in the West has tried to free the mind from the means of straying, and to ground methods of correct research, some dregs, which it could not root out, have become apparent in what is being written and published on Islam in our present epoch, which relies on legacies from old Western sources that are characterized by their fanatic inclination and affected by the times of the crusade wars.

The Encyclopaedia of Islam, published by Brill in Leiden, Holland, is a specimen of those Western sources. It contains studies on Islam that are contributed by orientalists, or by Arabs and Muslims who have used the same research tools. Those studies are not free from gross errors, committed fortuitously at times and on purpose at other times, which have no grounds in the genuine sources of the Islamic culture and are utterly devoid of any scientific precision, intellectual integrity, or historical truth.

Since the Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization -ISESCO- is carrying out a programme called : "Corrections of erroneous information published on Islam and Muslims", it has decided to revise this Islamic Encyclopaedia, and has checked its shortcomings and errors, thus earnestly attempting to correct what it contains in terms of accusations, calumnies and

errors, and to refute its fallacies, errors and lapses. Such endeavour is carried out for the sake of intellectual integrity and scientific objectivity and to show the firmly established scientific truths, so that they can be a safe source to be used by researchers and learners. It has been by the grace of Allah and thanks to His care that a group of outstanding scholars, with the scientific potential, a broad cognisance and a sound knowledge, have answered the call to correct this Encyclopaedia, and have pursued their valuable investigation, correcting with due intellectual integrity what has been published in it and which required recusation, refutation and disapproval.

By issuing the first volume in the series of books dealing with those corrections, the Islamic Organization will carry on its work with might from Allah, correcting the mistakes, straightening that which is distorted and firmly establishing critical scrutiny, hoping thus that those who are in charge of this Islamic Encyclopaedia would in their turn see to it that the shortcomings it contains are properly dealt with, out of fairness, scientific integrity, fair-play and open-mindedness. In this way, this Encyclopaedia would be able to present Islam as it really looks, without any change, alteration, or misinterpretation.

It is a favour from Allah that we act according to His guidance; Him the Glorified who says : "Lo! We, even We, reveal the Reminder, and lo! We verily are its Guardian". The Reminder is but the Qur'an, and the Qur'an is but the Scripture of Islam, and those who have committed it to memory are but the scholars who are righteous thanks to the care of Almighty the Creator.

Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri

Director General of the Islamic Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization.