

Editorial

Praise be to Allah, through whose grace good deeds are accomplished. Blessings and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions.

Islamic thought has, throughout the ages, profoundly influenced the paths of human civilisation by leading movements of renewal and *ijtihad* (independent reasoning) in various fields of knowledge, both religious and worldly. Among the most prominent scholars and thinkers in the modern Islamic world is the esteemed Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḏāwī, a distinguished intellectual and one of the pioneers of reform and renewal in Islamic jurisprudence. Sheikh al-Qaraḏāwī left a clear mark on Islamic thought through his profound and comprehensive vision that emphasises moderation and balance, along with his ability to connect tradition with modernity and present Islam in a renewed light that responds to contemporary challenges and realities.

The idea for this special issue of the journal arose to honour the distinguished scholar al-Qaraḏāwī and to shed light on various aspects of his thought and *ijtihad*, particularly regarding the concepts of renewal and moderation. This special issue is published in conjunction with the conference held on October 16, 2023, at Qatar University under the auspices of its president, titled “Reflections on Renewal and Moderation in the Thought of Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḏāwī.” The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies organised the conference, focusing on al-Qaraḏāwī’s approach to renewal, particularly as it relates to the study of revelation, jurisprudential reasoning, legal rulings, women’s issues, holistic jurisprudence, and his methodology in addressing the challenges faced by the Islamic Ummah.

Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḏāwī was not merely a jurist but also a visionary thinker who engaged with the cultural, civilisational, and political shifts that the Islamic world experienced during the twentieth century. As a prominent figure of the modern Islamic revival, al-Qaraḏāwī directed Islamic thought toward renewal and *ijtihad*, aiming to revitalise the objectives of Islamic law and modernise its application methods in line with contemporary needs. He recognised that Islamic jurisprudence is not static but dynamic and open to development. This perspective inspired him to introduce renewed jurisprudential insights into many sensitive and contemporary issues, offering enlightened views on matters such as family and women’s issues and modern financial transactions, all within the framework of *maqāṣid al-sharī‘a* (objectives of Islamic law), which prioritise public interest and prevent harm.

Al-Qaraḏāwī’s approach to renewal did not deviate from the foundational principles but emerged from them, as he sought to provide a fresh interpretation of contemporary jurisprudential issues through a balanced approach that combines authenticity with modernity. His stance on Islamic heritage and Western civilisation was also moderate, encouraging Muslims to benefit from Western scientific and intellectual advancements without compromising their Islamic identity or Islam’s fundamental principles.

Moderation, the essence of al-Qaraḏāwī’s thought, advocates for balance in all aspects of life, whether in legal rulings or in dealing with cultural and political challenges. He considered Islam a religion of moderation, with the Islamic Ummah as the “middle nation” living between extremes. Through this balanced methodology, he was able to offer realistic and well-adjusted legal rulings, reflecting a deep understanding of the spirit of Islamic law and the reality of Muslims today.

One of the most distinguishing aspects of al-Qaraḏāwī’s thought is his emphasis on knowledge

integration, believing that knowledge encompasses not only religious domains but also the human and social sciences that contribute to the civilisational advancement of the Ummah. This concept is evident in his legal rulings and views on contemporary issues, from medical jurisprudence to Islamic economics, as he consistently took into account all scientific, social, and humanitarian dimensions to offer lawful solutions that serve the Ummah's interests.

Thus, this special issue gains importance by including a collection of studies and articles that shed light on different facets of al-Qaraḍāwī's thought on renewal, addressing various issues in jurisprudence and *ijtihād*. Through these studies, the journal aims to provide an analytical and methodological reading of al-Qaraḍāwī's thought, serving as a reference for researchers and scholars in the Islamic sciences.

This issue includes ten studies in Arabic and one in English:

- 1. Landmarks of Terminological and Conceptual Renewal in Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī** - Dr Essam Al-Bashir (Sudan): This study highlights al-Qaraḍāwī's conceptual and renewal-oriented thought, illustrating how he employed new terms suited to contemporary challenges, focusing on three key concepts—renewal, the Ummah, and jurisprudence—and detailing his approach to modernising them and the scope of this renewal.
- 2. Knowledge Integration and Its Impact on Jurisprudential Development in al-Qaraḍāwī's Thought: An Exploration of Conceptions and Preferences** - Abdoul Ahad Moustapha Abdourahmane LO (Qatar, PhD Student): This study explores the role of knowledge integration in al-Qaraḍāwī's thought, emphasising its importance in the development of Islamic jurisprudence.
- 3. Aspects of Maqāṣid-Based Renewal and Its Impact on Fatwas Involving Women and the Family by Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī** - Dr Arbiya Lanani (Algeria): This research focuses on the concept of the 'objectives of Islamic law' and how al-Qaraḍāwī applied it in his rulings on the family and women, demonstrating how he used these objectives as a tool for developing rulings and achieving justice.
- 4. The Claim of Methodological Inconsistency in Sheikh al-Qaraḍāwī's Jurisprudential Approach: A Study and Evaluation** - Dr Ayman Saleh (Qatar): This study addresses critiques of al-Qaraḍāwī's jurisprudential methodology, discussing criticisms of inconsistency and highlighting how al-Qaraḍāwī's method is as stable and systematic as traditional jurisprudence.
- 5. The Methodology Followed by Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī in his Fatwas** - Dr Hussein Muhammad Ibrahim (Iraq): This study examines al-Qaraḍāwī's unique approach in his fatwas, balancing between legal texts and present-day reality and analysing the impact of his methodology on his rulings, including how he utilised modern science in his understanding of the texts and in issuing his rulings.
- 6. Applied Fiqh in al-Qaraḍāwī's Thought: An Analytical Study of its Foundations and Methodology** - Asma Nouri (Researcher at the University of Zitouna, Tunisia): This study explores the concept of 'applied fiqh' (*fiqh al-tanzīl*), which concerns applying Islamic law to real-life contexts. It explains how al-Qaraḍāwī employed this jurisprudence to interpret legal texts within their historical contexts, addressing contemporary issues to enhance understanding of Islamic law.
- 7. The Jurisprudence of Reviving the Ummah According to Sheikh al-Qaraḍāwī: A Study**

of its Features and Pillars of Renewal - Dr Messaouda Alouache (Algeria): This study delves into al-Qaraḍāwī's vision of reviving the Islamic Ummah, emphasising the importance of adhering to Islamic values and promoting education and culture to strengthen Islamic identity.

- 8. The Vital Interests of the Ummah and the Conditions for Civilizational Response According to al-Qaraḍāwī** - Dr Muhammad Abdel Halim Bichi (Qatar): This study discusses how al-Qaraḍāwī addressed the Ummah's core interests, emphasising the need for a balance between individual and collective interests, and the civilisational conditions essential for addressing challenges.
- 9. Methodological Landmarks and Aspects of Renewal in Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī's Stance on Western Civilization and Islamic Revival** - Dr Younes Amar Mellal (Algeria): This article examines al-Qaraḍāwī's views on the relationship between Western civilisation and Islamic revival, emphasising dialogue and understanding as tools for fostering cross-cultural cooperation.
- 10. Guiding Women's Roles in the Thought of Imam Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī** - Serine Louiz (Researcher and Architect, Algeria): This study explores how al-Qaraḍāwī promoted the role of women in Islamic society, advocating for their empowerment and active participation, viewing women as essential contributors to renewal.
- 11. Sheikh al-Qaraḍāwī's Independent Reasoning (*Ijtihād*) in Reformulating Contemporary Islamic Criminal Jurisprudence within the Framework of the Modern State** - Professor Jaber Muhammad (UK): This English-language study examines al-Qaraḍāwī's efforts to develop Islamic criminal jurisprudence to meet the challenges of the modern state.

In conclusion, honouring Sheikh Yūsuf al-Qaraḍāwī (may Allah have mercy on him) is not only a tribute to his personal and scholarly accomplishments but also an acknowledgement of his influential role in reviving a balanced and moderate Islamic perspective. Through this special issue, we aim to illuminate aspects of his thought and vision and to further spread the message of moderation and renewal that al-Qaraḍāwī championed.

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