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Editorial Foreword

With the publication of this issue, *Tajseer* has successfully closed its second year, though it is still striving to overcome the hardships of taking off, as well as the challenges of continuing the journal. For those who are familiar with publishing theoretical research, and/or publishing theoretical material on the critique of research methodologies, frameworks, paradigms, or issues related to bridging the gap between specializations, such obstacles are not new or unexpected.

We have managed so far to publish samples of studies and papers that focused, in a way or another, on the concept of *tajseer* (or crossing over), which is the title of the journal. In these studies, the authors tackled the concept of *tajseer*, either by using multiple research methods or by using interdisciplinary approach. Last year we received, gratefully, several papers, most of which we could not publish- not because they were below the bar, but because of the limited number of available pages.

It is worth mentioning that *Tajseer* will mainly be interested in publishing works that use multiple methods in approaching human and/ or social phenomena. Works that attempt to constantly re-examine the tools of thinking, and move from in-house debates among people of the same specialty to an in-depth dialogue in a truly open scientific community, based on innovation, participation, and transparency. It is needless to mention that we adopt this type of “lowering the barriers” between specialties because we are fully aware that the problems Arab and Muslim communities face at this time are highly interrelated, rapidly interacting, and enormously complicated. Problems of this nature cannot be addressed, or adequately understood, without relying on flexible and adaptable methodological tools.

It is within this context that the first paper in this issue addresses the issue of “Narcissism of Leadership and Islam’s Constraint: Two contradictory Images of the Kurds, Black Africans and Amazighs in the Arab Culture” authored by Mohammed Mukhtar al-Shingiti. He relies on a variety of sources, ranging from literature and history to Hadith, biographies, as well as the writing of geographers and travelers. As the title indicates, the paper attempts to show how Arabic sources present two contradictory images of the three African communities. To explain this, the author relates it, on one hand, to what he calls

“narcissism” of the Arab leaders who took upon themselves the role of the custodian of Islam. He related the other part of the explanation to what he calls “Islam’s Constraint”, where the Arabs were religiously obligated to establish justice and equality among communities.

In the second paper an attempt is made to bring together Qur’anic studies and rational criticism of Karl Popper, the renowned Prussian-British philosopher. The author, Ali Paya, wrote the original version of the paper in English, and it has been rendered into accurate and beautiful Arabic. Ali’s starting point is that the Qur’anic text has a distinctive logical depth, and it could better be elucidated by way of using rational criticism. The author then proceeds to present some clarifications about “rational criticism”, as well as an expose of the relation between the Qur’an and the theory of meaning.

The third paper on “Translingual and Decolonial Approaches to Meaning Making” (translated from English by Layachi El Habbouch) is a critique of the colonial approaches, not only on its impact on modes of thought but also on learning, education, and research.

The final English section contains a point of view co-authored by Mariam Al Maadeed (the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Qatar University) and Miguel Athayde Marque (Vice-Rector, Strategic Development (Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon). The paper addresses “Challenges for Higher Education in Crisis Stricken Times- The Effects of Covid-19 in Preparing Universities for the Future.” As usual, this issue of *Tajseer* includes a section on Book Reviews, as well as a report on the International Symposium on “Human Rights in Children’s Literature in the Arab World”, organized by Ibn khaldon Center for Humanities and Social Sciences - Qatar University on September 26, 2020.