



## The Relationships Among Sunnatullah, Religion, Science, Lore and Gnosis

The aim of this article is to reveal that contrary to what is believed, religion and science do not contradict each other and that, in fact, performing science is an order of Islam. To this end, under this heading, Sunnatullah, Islam, Religion, the Religion of Islam, The Noble Quran, Prophet, Science, Lore, and Gnosis are defined, and their interrelationships are explained.

The word *Religion* refers to the path a person follows in life. According to the Turkish Language Institution (TDK), religion is a social institution that systemizes belief and worship in God, supernatural powers, and various holy beings<sup>1</sup>. In brief, religion is a lifestyle. This lifestyle is also characterized as Sharia. *Sharia* is an Arabic word that means 'the path, sect, method, tradition; a path that leads a person to a river, to a source of drinking water'. As a term, Sharia is 'the body of religious laws derived from the Ayats of the Noble Quran and Sunnah compiled from the Islamic scholars' views and interpretations of Prophet Muhammad's (sav) sayings and deeds. Sharia, which is also used in the meaning of religion, refers to 'a body of verses of the religion concerning to human actions', 'its verses related to the world' and 'Islamic law'<sup>2</sup>.

Sharia is the set of rules for the Islamic lifestyle. Islamic Sharia has two main sources: 1) the Noble Quran and 2) Sunnah. The Noble Quran, which constitutes the basis of Sharia, lays down the principles, while Sunnah provides the details and procedures regarding the implementation of these principles. For example, the Noble Quran orders people to perform Salah; Sunnah details the procedures of Salah. Islamic Sharia aims for humans'

wealth, happiness, and success both in this world and in the next world<sup>3</sup>.

The dictionary meaning of *Islam* is peace, mature, mind and reasonable. *The Religion of Islam* refers to submission to Allah (cc). One who follows the Religion of Islam is called *Muslim*. A Muslim is defined as a person who follows the religion of Islam, who fulfils the rules of Islam, and who does not deviate from the right path<sup>4</sup>. In other words, a Muslim is a person who follows the religion of Islam and who is expected to meet its requirements.

Since the day humanity was created, Allah (cc) has informed humanity, through Holy Books and Prophets, that *the Religion of Islam* is the religion that people must follow<sup>5</sup>. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sav) is the last of the Prophets, and the Noble Quran is the last of the Holy Books. Islam is the only acceptable religion in the presence of Allah (cc). This is implied in the Noble Quran, as follows: '*This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed. My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion*' (al-Maa'idah 5:3). '*Whoever seeks other than Islam as a religion, it will not be accepted from him, and in the Hereafter he will be among the losers*' (Al-Emran Verse No: 85).

*Al-Quran Al-Kareem (the Noble Quran)* is the Holy Book of Islam. The Ayats of this book were sent down to the Prophet Muhammad (sav) by Allah (cc) through the archangel Gabriel, who is the bearer of revelation. The word *Quran*, which is a verbal noun, is equivalent in meaning to the Arabic word 'qira'ah'. Both terms come from the verb "qara'a", which means 'to read', and *Kareem* means 'noble' and 'generous', 'The virtues and

<sup>1</sup> TDK. (2015). Bilim ([http://www.tdk.gov.tr/index.php?option=com\\_gts&arama=gts&guid=TDK.GTS.562a8c85ddb8d7.36172000](http://www.tdk.gov.tr/index.php?option=com_gts&arama=gts&guid=TDK.GTS.562a8c85ddb8d7.36172000), erişim: 9.9.2015).

<sup>2</sup> (<https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Eeriat>, 15.07.2015)

<sup>3</sup> (<http://www.angelfire.com/bc3/johnsonuk/eng/dawa/sharia.html>, 28.08.2015)

<sup>4</sup> TDK. (2015). *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> (<http://islamhakkinda.net/islam-nedir-and-temel-ozellikleri-nelerdir/>, 7.7.2015)

merits of the Noble Quran are underlined in Ayats and Hadiths, as follows: ‘A blessed Book that we sent down to you, that they may ponder its Ayats, and for those with intelligence to take heed’ (Sad, 29)<sup>6</sup>. The Prophet is the person, i.e., the Messenger, who submits the commands of Allah (cc) to people and who invites them to the path of Allah (cc)<sup>7</sup>.

*Sunnatullah* means Sunnah of Allah, i.e., Law of Allah (cc). In other words, Sunnatullah refers to laws of Allah and a complete and integral system of cause and effect. It is a Noble Quran term referring to laws laid down by Allah (cc) to create and maintain nature and to order social life. The word ‘sunnatullah’ is composed of two sub-words: ‘sunnah’, which linguistically means a way or method that can have two states (either good or bad), and ‘the Dhikr of the Name of Allah (cc). Thus, Sunnatullah refers to the pattern of Allah, i.e., the laws of Allah. This term is specific to the Noble Quran. The word ‘sunnah’ is used in the Noble Quran to mean ‘continuous, regular, and original practice’ and is attributed to Allah (cc); thus, it points to the ongoing and unchanged way of Allah (cc) in terms of His creation and management<sup>8</sup>.

Laws of nature are the operating laws of Sunnatullah. Laws of nature can be divided into two groups: laws of nature regarding natural sciences and laws of nature regarding social sciences. Natural sciences are those concerning substance (physics, medicine, chemistry, biology, botany, etc.). Natural sciences are dominated by two main principles: the reality of substance and scientific causality principle of the substance. In natural science, five senses are means of acquiring knowledge. Substance is the source of knowledge. Natural sciences provide us with the knowledge of substance. The other group of laws included in Sunnatullah contains laws related to social sciences. The individual and society are the subjects of laws of nature related to social sciences, including social science/sociology, economics, and law. Laws related to social knowledge were introduced with the first creation and have been operating since then. Accordingly, the human being who mentally strives, works and questions will gain social knowledge that will allow

him/her to eliminate raw thoughts and assumptions. Sunnatullah involves laws of natural and social sciences that began to operate with the first creation. Laws and rules of natural sciences can be acquired through five senses, while laws of social sciences can be learned through study and thought. There has been no change in these laws since the universe began to exist<sup>9</sup>.

*Science* is defined as orderly knowledge, which chooses a part of the universe or events and attempts to draw conclusions by making use of experiment-based methods and reality. Methodical and systematic knowledge that demonstrates the attributes of universally accepted knowledge is called science. Science is the process of information acquisition and methodical research that aim to explore a specific subject for a specific purpose<sup>10</sup>. *Lore (wisdom)* means detail, characteristic, or quality<sup>11</sup>. If science is gained by referring to the Creator, it becomes lore. Lore basically involves two main concepts: Rational Lore (*Positive Lore or Science*) and Transmitted Lore (*Esoteric Lore/Revealed Lore*). The branch of lore concerned with the material and the physical structure of the universe is called rational lore (science). The other branch, which conducts the first branch and is not seen or felt but is understood through revelation and under the guidance of mind, is called transmitted lore. A person with physical and spiritual lore is called a *Person of Lore*. A person equipped solely with material knowledge should be called a Scientist even if he or she is a non-believer<sup>12</sup>. *Gnosis* means knowing, understanding and insight. In other words, powerful insight that leads to truth is defined as ‘gnosis’<sup>13</sup>.

The Noble Quran is the only Holy Book that contains the subject of science. Our Prophet Muhammad (sav) bequeathed: ‘Respect science and scientists’. The first revealed Ayat of the Noble Quran is ‘Read’. The Ayat continues as follows: ‘Allah who taught by the pen, who has taught man that which he knew not, is the most generous’<sup>14</sup>.

Researching, learning and studying science are forms of worshiping Allah (cc) because the more science that we learn, the more clearly we see that a large order has

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.islammerkezi.com/ilmihal/kuran\\_i\\_kerim.htm](http://www.islammerkezi.com/ilmihal/kuran_i_kerim.htm)

<sup>7</sup> TDK. (2015). *ibid*.

<sup>8</sup> (<http://www.fizan.net/sunnatullah.html>, 30.08.2015)

<sup>9</sup> (<http://www.kurandini.net/index.php/sunnatullah.html>, 30.08.2015)

<sup>10</sup> TDK. (2015). *ibid*.

<sup>11</sup> TDK. (2015). *ibid*.

<sup>12</sup> Temiz M. (2015). Yaratılış Sebebimiz: İslamda Yaşamın Gerçek Güncel İlkeleri ([www.mtemiz.com](http://www.mtemiz.com), erişim: 5.9.2015).

<sup>13</sup> TDK. (2015). *ibid*.

<sup>14</sup> Saraçoğlu İA. (2015). *Kuran-ı Kerim and Bilim* (<http://www.profsara-coglu.com/kurani-kerim-and-bilim>, erişim: 6.9.2015).

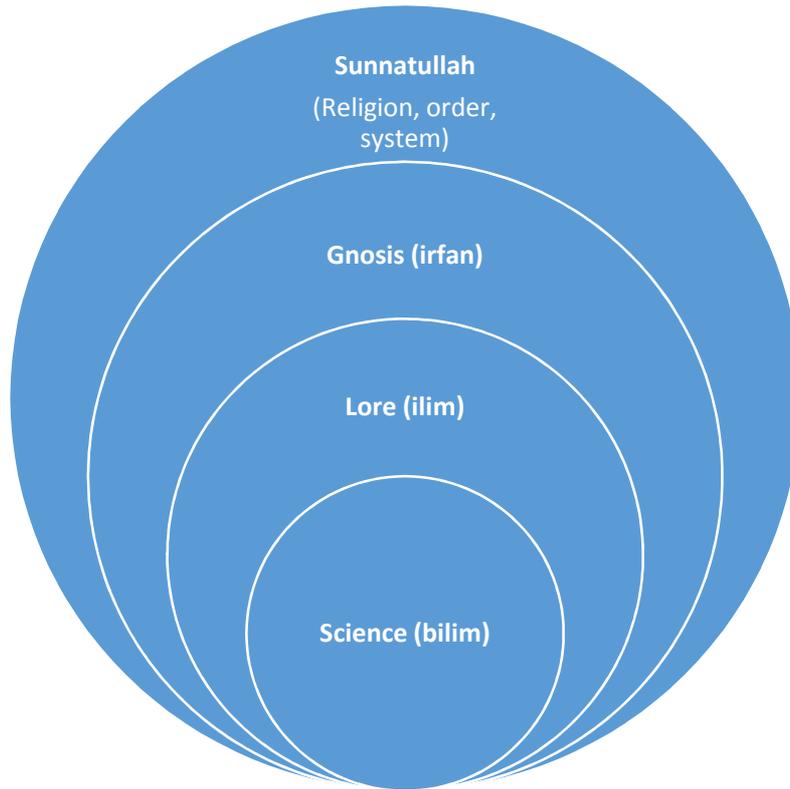
been established and has been working under certain rules. Allah (cc) is the One who has established the order and rules. As we learn these rules, we attempt to know Allah (cc). In the Noble Quran, Allah (cc) states, 'I did not create all of this for any foolish purpose; I built them on a systematic order and balance'<sup>15</sup>.

In today's world of science, we face a very wrong and misleading claim. There is a prevailing propaganda across the world that religious views are unacceptable. Thus, views and opinions of scientists whose research

and studies refer to religious sources, which play major and indispensable roles in the formation of the cultures of nations, are considered scientifically not credible<sup>16</sup>.

Following these definitions, it will be helpful to briefly discuss the relationships among religion, gnosis, lore, and science. It can be said that these concepts have intertwined scopes and hierarchical relationships. Thus, Sunnatullah (religion, order, system) hierarchically involves gnosis, Lore, and science (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. The Relationships among Sunnatullah, Science, Lore, Gnosis and Religion**



**Source:** The Author

*The difference between religious data and science is that religious data have been provided by the religious institution beforehand, whereas science gets closer to these facts through trial and error by making use of different methods<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, a science or theory that does not comply with or that contradicts Sunnatullah (Allah's laws) will be falsified eventually. Einstein said, 'Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind'.*

At this point, let us re-raise a controversial question that all people wish to have an answer to: do religion and science work together? Some groups may strongly maintain that religion and science do not meet or cannot or must not be combined. Yet, we note, without going into great detail and in light of the above definitions, that religion (Islam) and science do not contradict one another. On the contrary, modern or positivist science precisely fulfils the command of Islam (albeit unintentionally).

<sup>15</sup> Saraçoğlu İA. (2015). *ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Temiz M. (2015). *ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Temiz M. (2015). *ibid.*

Allah (cc) commands, 'do science' not only to scientists, who are specifically engaged in science, but also to all people; He also commands, 'Read'. Reading, understanding, and discovering are acts of science.

How? Let us explain this.

As discussed above, science refers to attempts to *read* and grasp nature, events, phenomena, in brief, all existing things (i.e., everything already created by Allah (cc) (Sunnatullah) in a systematic framework by using certain methods and to draw universally accepted conclusions. In brief, positive science and scientists read and, thus, realize and understand. In other words, religion is the divine law, the body of divine laws, Sunnatullah. Science is the art of attempting to understand and realize divine laws. Science is reading and analysing events/phenomena via various methods (experiment, experience, and observation) in a systematic and accumulated manner and reaching conclusions. In fact, the first command of Allah (cc) is 'read'; that is, he commands humankind to 'do science'. Do you see any contradiction here?

As Kibar states, the Noble Quran, which accepts all other Abrahamic religions and was sent down to fill the missing parts of other Holy Books, if any, is the last Book that narrates the secrets of creation through rational methods and that shows mankind the ways of living that are consistent with creation. In this context, although it is not a medical book, the Noble Quran (which recommends a healthy lifestyle and prohibits all practices that prevent mental and physical development and that contradict human nature) and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (through the first command 'read') conveyed their wish for the development of positive sciences through experiments, observations and experiences, with the same logic and naturalness<sup>18</sup>. Supported by the last Messenger of Allah, the Rab (Lord) of the Worlds, Prophet Muhammad (sav) recommended that Muslims use rational sciences, which are based on observations, experiments and experiences, as indispensable guides. Thus, Medical Science should embrace the Islamic culture and civilization<sup>19</sup>. The Religion of Islam is fully consistent

with reason, logic, and facts. Otherwise, it would contradict the divine laws of nature. After all, the Almighty Allah has created all laws of nature<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> Kibar M. (2015). Tanıtım (www.tibbinebevikongresi.com, erişim: 10.12.2015).

<sup>19</sup> Büyük M. (2015). Tanıtım (www.tibbinebevikongresi.com, erişim: 10.12.2015).

<sup>20</sup> Atatürk GMK. (2015). Tanıtım (aktaran; www.tibbinebevikongresi.com, erişim: 10.12.2015).