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**ABSTRACT**

**Introductory Lessons to the Principles of Jurisprudence**

*دروس في علم الأصول: الحلقة الأولى*

This book is the first of a three-level course (*halaqat*) on Islamic jurisprudence. It introduces *hawza* (Shi‘i study circles) students to the science of *usul al-fiqh*: the principles and procedures for deriving Islamic rulings from its sources, understood by the author as being synonymous with *ijtihad* (independent interpretation). The work discusses these principles and procedures step by step, including types of derivative procedure, signification or indication, division of meanings into nominal and particular, absoluteness, authority of apparent meaning and state, non-verbal religious evidence, primacy of rational caution, principle of the accountability of summary knowledge, assumption of continuity, and so on. The edition is arranged in twenty-eight lessons, which each include a summary of the main points discussed plus a series of questions and exercises.

The work was undertaken within a larger project aimed at modernising the teaching material of the *hawza* curricula to fit modern criteria, and substitute renowned but old and abstruse works such as *al-Ma‘alim* by al-Shahid al-Thani. The effort is successful: the work appears innovative, in that its language is both modern and plain, and that it has a clear writing style and argumentation. From a philosophical perspective, however, it lacks freshness of thought.

This book is recommended for any readers interested in Islamic jurisprudence. It has two translations: by Roy Parviz Mottahedeh, 2005 (almost excellent), and Arif Abdul Hussain, eds. Algar and Bahmanpour, 2004 (fairly good).

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