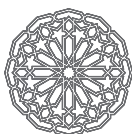


A Thinking Person's Guide to
OUR TIMES



H. R. H. PRINCE
GHAZI BIN MUHAMMAD



White Thread
P R E S S

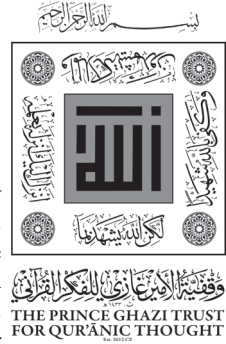


TURATH
PUBLISHING

© THE Prince Ghazi Trust for Qur'anic Thought 2019
First Edition August 2019

All royalties will be paid to the Prince Ghazi Trust for Qur'anic Thought.

All rights reserved. Aside from fair use, meaning a few pages or less for non-profit educational purposes, review, or scholarly citation, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.



ISBN 978-1-906949-36-5

Published by
'ilmStore.in
www.ilmStore.in | info@ilmStore.in | +91 9422 00 9767

in arrangement with

Jointly Published by
White Thread Press
WT Press Limited
London, UK
www.whitethreadpress.com

Turath Publishing
79 Mitcham Road
London SW17 9PD
www.turath.co.uk

This edition is printed and bound in India by 'ilmStore.in and is authorised for sale only in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The publishers do not take responsibility for all of the author's personal opinions expressed herein.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data. A catalogue record for this book is also available from the British Library.

Cover design and typography by ARM

Cover pattern based on the Hilu family of Fez's Qur'anic frontispiece.
All calligraphy featured in this book is available at www.freeislamiccalligraphy.com

Also in this series, by the same author

*A Thinking Person's Guide to Islam: The Essence
of Islam in 12 Verses from the Qur'an (2016)*

*A Tentative Guide to the Themes of
the Surahs of the Qur'an (2017)*

*A Thinking Person's Guide to
the Truly Happy Life (2018)*

*A Tentative Guide to
Islamic Invocations (2018)*



General Contents



ABOUT THE AUTHOR	12
FOREWORD	13
INTRODUCTION	19
I. The Past: <i>What Happened?</i> (1795-1995 CE)	25
II. The Present: <i>What Broke?</i> (1990-2015 CE)	73
III. The Future: <i>What Might Happen?</i> (2016-2045 CE)	109
SUMMARY, SOLUTIONS AND CONCLUSION	123
APPENDIX 1: THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF GHAZALI, HADDAD AND ISKANDARI IN ENGLISH	165
APPENDIX 2: TWENTY-FIVE NECESSARY BOOKS ON ISLAM	169
APPENDIX 3: FIVE NECESSARY BOOKS ON OUR TIMES	173
APPENDIX 4: THE ISLAMIC CANON	175
APPENDIX 5: FIFTY NECESSARY BOOKS ON WESTERN AND WORLD KNOWLEDGE AND LITERATURE AND TEN REFERENCE WORKS	177
APPENDIX 6: HAROLD BLOOM'S LIST OF TWENTY-SIX WESTERN CANONICAL WRITERS	189
ANNEX: VICE AND VICEGERENT	191
GENERAL INDEX	215
INDEX OF AHADITH CITED	223
INDEX OF QUR'ANIC VERSES CITED	225



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَائِمَةِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ

A Thinking Person's Guides



By the grace of God, this is the fourth book in the *A Thinking Person's Guides* and *A Tentative Guides* series. This series aims to provide brief, clear philosophical primers about a number of important topics that concern every human being, based on the Qur'an and the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The difference between the two series titles is that *A Thinking Person's Guides* are based on general topics of philosophy, whereas the *A Tentative Guides* have to do with particular topics of Qur'an, *hadith*, doctrine and theology. As these topics require greater caution—because they have more direct applications, being more devotional and contemplative—the word 'tentative' has been adopted in order to claim no decisive authority in writing them. The whole series also aims to be a sensitive guide to what other religions and philosophies have written on these topics, in order to present a complete picture of each topic. People do not have time to do all the reading themselves—and in fact it takes years to do so, and usually require a professional academic guide to help them through the topic—so this series aims to do all the academic and historical work for them. All that the reader is required to do is to be willing to think objectively a bit. Finally, in order to be accessible to everyone, the works contain no footnotes or endnotes and as little technical jargon as possible.

About the Author



H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal of Jordan (b. 1966 CE) was educated at Harrow School, UK; received his BA summa cum laude from Princeton University, NJ, USA; his first PhD from Trinity College, Cambridge University, UK, and his second PhD from Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt. He is a professor of Islamic Philosophy and his book *Love in the Holy Qur'an* has been widely acclaimed, has gone into eight editions and has been translated into a number of languages. He also serves as Chief Advisor for Religious and Cultural Affairs to H.M. King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein of Jordan.

