PRESERVING UNITY
AND AVOIDING DIVISION

A New Approach to The Ethics of Disagreement in Islam

Taha Jabir Al-Alwani

To cultivate a thriving Muslim civilization it is essential to rediscover an ethical framework for disagreement. Al-Alwani defines this as a constructive approach to discourse and debate that prioritizes mutual respect, understanding, and tolerance among individuals with differing viewpoints.

The book illustrates how early prominent Muslim scholars set the standard, viewing disagreement not as a source of division, but as an opportunity for dialogue and intellectual growth, recognizing the validity of differing opinions whilst striving for common ground.

Al-Alwani also points to practices of dispute resolution that wisely steered discourse from positional and defensive argumentation to collaborative and constructive engagement. Prioritizing exploration of ideas without confrontational exchange is the great legacy of the past that Al-Alwani passionately calls contemporary Muslims to revive today.

Taha Jabir Al-Alwani

An internationally recognized scholar and authority in Islamic legal theory and jurisprudence (fiqh), Al-Alwani obtained his doctorate in Usul al-Fiqh from the College of Shari'ah and Law at Al-Azhar University in Cairo.
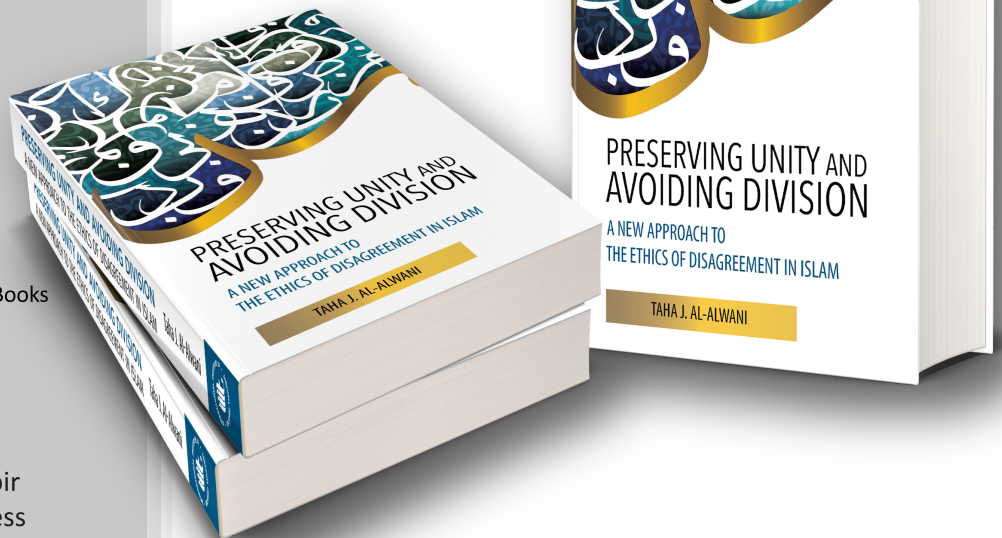
Amongst various prestigious posts he served as president of the Fiqh Council of North America and the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) in the USA, was a member of the OIC Islamic Fiqh Academy, and founder of the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences (GSISS) in Leesburg, VA.

A prolific writer, Al-Alwani authored numerous important works, including Source Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence, Towards a Fiqh for Minorities, and The Authority of the Qur'an and the Status of the Sunnah.