# Theological and Social Perspectives on Islamic Religious Education

Mizrap Polat (Ed.)





Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mizrap Polat (Ed.)

## THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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#### **Preface**

It is a well-known fact that the first verse and command of Quran is "read!". The command of "read!" is not only about reading Quran and other books but also about reading people and time because no religion can exist without human beings and a religion becomes meaningful and exists in connection with the human beings. Also, reading a human being means reading not only the environment affecting and surrounding him/her but also the events s/he experiences. The reading in this context includes grasp of globalization, information technology, mechanized life, new political and social interpretations and setting values, as well as understanding communication and interaction of all those mentioned with human's physical and spiritual lives. I think religious education is a combination of the actions taken to fulfil the comprehensive command of reading. Education is beyond giving information and points out the determination of making people wiser; that's why, it cares about human beings, and it has to care about everything related to humanity. The educational efforts regard human beings as "caliphs of Allah on earth", an expression of Quran, and respect them while trying to enable them to fulfill the "entrustment" they have been charged with. What modern education actually means is the reading mentioned above when referring to the concepts, such as equipping students with competence, learner- oriented education, values education and so on.

We started from the presupposition that in order to educate people, it is essential to understand them and everything surrounding them. Taking the globalization, one of the most effective improvements surrounding people, into the center of attention, we organized "The International Symposium of Religious Education in Globalization Process" hosted by Eskişehir Osmangazi University between 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November in 2013. I am very thankful to Eskişehir Osmangazi University and the Agency of the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2013 Eskisehir for their support for Symposium.

Some of the papers translated into English were presented in this book. I would like to thank the university rector, Professor Doctor Hasan Gönen; vice rector, Professor Doctor M. Bahattin Acat; the dean of faculty of Theology, Professor Doctor Hüseyin Aydın; and the dean of faculty of Education, Professor Doctor Selahattin Turan for their contributions to the symposium. I also would like to thank those members of symposium committee, Aybice Tosun, İshak Tekin, Sezai Engin, Aynur Palabıyık and Figen Kervankaya. I also thank Erdoğan Cantürk, who carried out technical works of symposium. I would like to thank the administrators and instructors of "Viyana Muslim Teacher Training College", Amina Sakir and Farid Hafez for their invaluable contributions to the symposium. I am also grateful to all scientists who contributed to the symposium by submitting their papers. Finally, Kübra Yıldız, Gülçin Çeliker, Serap İri, Sabiha İşci and Hasret Çağlar, who provided technical support in preparation of this proceedings book of the symposium to be published, are the ones to be appreciated for their contributions.

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### **CONTENTS**

"THE IMPORTANCE OF ROLE MODELS IN TERMS OF VALUE ACQUSITION AND TENDENCY"
Mizrap POLAT
"A LOOK AT THE SUFISTIC NOTIONS IN TERMS OF EDUCATION VALUES"
Esma SAYIN
"QUALITY OF THEOLOGY EDUCATION DISCONNECTED WITH THE QUR'AN"
Fatma Asiye ŞENAT – Mine GÖLCÜ19
"THEOLOGY EDUCATION: STRUGGLE TOWARDS THE UNIVERSAL IGNORING THE LOCAL"
Fatma Asiye ŞENAT – Mine GÖLCÜ29
"AN EVALUATION OF THE CONCEPTS AND PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION IN TERMS OF TEACHING RELIGION: A STUDY INTO THE UNITS OF PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS CONCEPTS IN THE PROGRAMS OF TEACHING PHILOSOPHY"
Aytekin DEMİRCİOĞLU37
"MULTICULTURALISM AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: THE ATTITUDES OF RELIGIOUS CULTURE AND MORAL KNOWLEDGE TEACHERS TOWARDS MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION"  Abdulkadir ÇEKİN
"RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CYBERSPACE"
Ali KUZUDİŞLİ
"GLOBALIZATION AND NEED FOR THE REINTERPRETATION OF ISLAM"  Ali ÇETİN - Rabiye ÇETİN75
"NURETTİN TOPÇU'S VIEWS ON RELIGIOUS AND MORAL EDUCATION IN THE PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION"
Halis Adnan ARSLANTAŞ91