Mahshid Turner
**THE MUSLIM THEOLOGY OF HUZN: SORROW UNRAVELLED**
(WITH A FOREWORD BY ALPARSLAN AÇIKGENÇ)

The subject of sorrow (huzn) and how it should be treated is a subject as old as mankind itself. Considered for the most part as something negative, which should be somehow avoided or remedied completely, the real meaning and purpose of its existence have never been explained satisfactorily.

The Quran, however, claims that nothing is created purposelessly, which implies that sorrow also has its uses. With the aim of unravelling the mystery of its existence, this ground-breaking study aims to tell the story of sorrow in the Quran from a Muslim scholarly perspective, with particular emphasis on the theology of Bediuzzaman Said Nursi.

Seyfeddin Kara
**IN SEARCH OF ALI IBN ABI TALIB’S CODEX: HISTORY AND TRADITIONS OF THE EARLIEST COPY OF THE QUR’AN.**

The history of the text of the Qur’an has been a longstanding subject of interest within the field of Islamic Studies, but the debate has so far been focused on the Sunni traditions about the codices of Caliphs Abū Bakr and ‘Uthmān b. ‘Affān. Little to no attention has been given to the traditions on ‘Ali b. Abī Talib’s collection of the Qur’an.

This book examines both Shi‘i and Sunni traditions on the issue, aiming to date them back to the earliest possible date and, if possible, verify their authenticity.

To achieve this, the traditions are examined using Harald Motzki’s śī‘ā-cum-matn method, which is recognised as an efficient tool in dating the early Islamic traditions and involves analysis of both matn (text) and śī‘ā (chain of transmission) with an emphasis on finding a correlation between the two.

“Kara’s application of hadith criticism to Shi‘i sources is innovative as well as constructive. Respectful of others’ contributions, he nonetheless subverts conventional sceptical and starkly sectarianised approaches to Scriptural textual history.”

(From the foreword by James Piccatore)

Muhammad Shahrour
**ISLAM AND HUMANITY: CONSEQUENCES OF A CONTEMPORARY READING**

First Authorized English Translation of Al-Islam wa-l-Insan by George Stergios.

Shahrour’s reading of the Qur’an is “modern” in that he directly engages the reader. He argues that we must act as if “the Prophet just died and informed us of this book” and interpret his message anew.

The reader must actively interpret the meaning of the Qur’an. The Prophet Muhammad conveyed the last of God’s revelations; now, writes Shahrour, humankind is on its own to perfect itself and adapt to modern conditions.

“Islam and Humanity” won the 2017 Sheikh Zayed Book Award in the category “Contribution to the Development of Nations,” an indication of its continuing relevance to contemporary issues.

(From the foreword by Dale F. Eickelman)

Nasrin Rouzati
**TRIAL AND TRIBULATION IN THE QUR’AN. A MYSTICAL THEODICCY**

This book offers a critical analysis and re-examination of the notion of Divine trial, first by providing a comprehensive typology and a contextual interpretation of the Qur‘anic narratives pertaining to the concept. Divine trial is then investigated through a historical review of prophetic tradition (hadith) and the exegetical literature (tafsir); followed by a discussion on Prophetology, and an overview of bala in the lives of the prophets.

The book further develops key aspects of Muslim theology and mysticism through an examination of the works of Rumi and al-Ghazali.

Nasrin Rouzati takes up a neglected aspect of Islamic religious experience. The concept is actually at the heart of the Qur’an and Rouzati’s research in the Qur‘anic materials, both classical and modern, on the subject is ground-breaking.

(Abdulaziz Sachedina, George Mason University)
Colin Turner

**THE QUR'AN REVEALED: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SAID NURSI’S EPISTLES OF LIGHT**

With a Foreword by Dale F. Eickelman

The Qur’an Revealed is a landmark publication in the history of Islamic studies, providing for the first time a comprehensive critical analysis of Bedizuzzaman Said Nursi’s 6000-page work of Quranic exegesis.

The Epistles of Light. In discussing a wide range of themes, from Divine unity to causation, from love to spirituality, from prophethood to civilization and politics, Colin Turner invites the reader into Nursi's conceptual universe, presenting the teachings of arguably the Muslim world’s most understudied theologian in a language that is accessible to both expert and interested layperson alike.

*A remarkable and outstanding study. It will be the definitive text on Said Nursi for decades to come.*

(Ian S. Markham, Virginia Theological Seminary)