



# CONCEPTUALISING *‘IBĀDAH*

## IMPLICATIONS FOR PRIORITISATION IN THE CONDUCT OF MUSLIMS’ AFFAIRS

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### A B S T R A C T

The classification of Muslim affairs into *‘ibādāt* and *mu‘āmalāt*, by later *fuqahā*, has been misconstrued by many; accordingly, many Muslims are putting the cart before the horse in their daily activities. Though they perform the acts and handle the issues they consider to be in the realm of *‘ibādah* with full devotion, they neglect or rather handle with levity the issues which fall in the category of *mu‘āmalāt*, considering to be of less importance, not minding the fact that the former can hardly be accomplished without the latter. Apart from this, the influence of secularism which separates spiritual and mundane activities has greatly affected the mindset of most Muslims leading them to consider the socio-economic culturo-civilisational and political endeavours to be devoid of Islamic guidelines. This paper, therefore, intends to shed light on the comprehensiveness of the concept of *‘ibādah*, its connectivity with all affairs in all spheres of life, and to analyse the value of various acts of life *vis-à-vis* classification of *Sharī‘ah* rules, with a view to understand their implications for prioritisation in the conduct of the Muslims’ affairs. The paper concludes that each and every affair of a Muslim’s life conducted in light of the injunctions of Allah and the Prophetic *Sunnah* is *‘ibādah* though the pillars of Islam, because of their pivotal role, specific formats and repeated performance seem more prominent. To arrive at this conclusion, textual, jurisprudential analyses and phenomenological approach based on event observation have been used, while a juxtaposition of *‘ibādāt* and *mu‘āmalāt* issues has also been made so that highly rewarding activities might not be ignorantly substituted for less-rewarding ones due to a narrow conception of *‘ibādah*.

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