Criticism and examination of the nature of religious science; Case study: Criticism of definitions of Islamic economics

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Abstract

The religious nature of economics, as an important science in the field of social sciences, is a major concern for Muslims and their scholars. There is no doubt that jurisprudence, ethics, and the economic school have been accepted as religious sciences in seminary and university centers; but there are problems in accepting Islamic economics. It seems that there is no accurate understanding of Islamic economics that is based on correct religious and scientific foundations. Incomplete understandings have caused the seminary and the university to distance themselves from each other and undermine the unity of these two effective organizations to solve that major concern. To achieve a precise definition of Islamic economics, we first express and criticize the definitions of Islamic economics researchers based on (objective, subject, and method) and then we arrive at a definition that has the following characteristics: 1- The subject, ultimate objective, and method of Islamic economics are universal; 2- The universality of the method means that all Islamic and non-Islamic economic systems are analyzed with a qualitative and quantitative method based on the divine traditions of "aid" and "patience and communication". 3- Due to the qualitative differences in "general and specific aid", we may have less universal economic analyses (more localization of analyses).

Keywords: Islamic economics; economic system; divine tradition of assistance; divine tradition of patience and communication

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