Contemporary Islam is witnessing the advent of new discourses from within its own modes of articulation. It confronts a new epistemic and interpretative situation. The fact that the existing constellations on the intellectual scene are characterized by institutional discontinuities, ideological cleavages, and complex notions of loyalty in society and politics. This entanglement has produced a multiplicity in the various intellectual frameworks, and the epistemological categories of one are even employed by others in their discourse in the experience of modernity. Amongst intellectual figures who are considered in this respect are primarily 'Abdullah Jawadi-Amuli, Muhammad Mujtahid-Shabibi, and Abd al-Karim Surush, but other individuals who belong to the Islamic intellectual elite of Iran are also included. In the main, the discourse of Surush is highlighted, since in his writing on the nature of Islamic law, legal epistemology and hermeneutics accommodate Islam to modernity to an extent unsurpassed in the Iranian context.

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