

# **“Interest (*riba*) in Islam and the Baha’i Faith”**

Prof. Gad Gilbar

According to the Baha’i faith, charging interest on loans is not forbidden. This attitude to the “price of money” stands in sharp contrast to Islamic religious law (*shari’ah*) and also in contradiction to treatises written by both *sunni* and *shi’i* leading *‘ulama* in most Islamic communities.

The idea that interest may be economically justified could have affected the material position of both the upper strata of the *‘ulama* as well as that of the big merchants in Iran and other Islamic countries.

The lecture will deal with several economic, social and cultural aspects of Baha’i attitude to interest.