Preface

When a joint work is published, there is always the question of why the particular topic was chosen, and how the authors came to work together. In this case, the sequence was reversed. Dr Kaleem had obtained funding for a sabbatical spent at the University of South Australia, and he suggested to Professor Lewis that, in comparison with interest (usury, *riba*), non-interest financing was a relatively neglected topic, especially when it related to all three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam). This initial interaction resulted in a conference paper, ‘Non-Interest Financing Arrangements in three Abrahamic Religions’, published in 2014 (Kaleem and Lewis, 2014).

The idea was to follow up this research rapidly with a book, but for one reason or another the volume was delayed until 2018. By then, Mervyn Lewis had retired and he took on the major role of writing up the final draft, filling in some of the gaps in the original paper, and broadening the emphasis. As a consequence (and at Dr Kaleem’s insistence) the authorship was reversed. Nevertheless, we wish to emphasize that both authors have contributed significantly to the final manuscript.

Overall, we would want representatives and adherents of all three religions to feel that they have been given due emphasis and ‘a fair crack of the whip’. Nevertheless, where it is felt that criticisms and questionings are warranted, we have endeavoured not to shy away from doing so. All in all, it has, for us, been a joy (albeit burdensome at times) to prepare the volume, and we hope that our original objective of explaining the emphasis given to non-interest financing techniques has been realized. In general, our aim has been to provide readers with an understanding of the past, an examination of the present, and a look into the future.

Our wives are thanked for tolerating the time that has gone into the book. As in usual in books in which Mervyn Lewis is involved, Kay Lewis has been a faithful scribe and has, once again, kept the large numbers of references under control.