This paper is very much work in progress and presents preliminary reflections on some contemporary challenges to Islamic law. It represents both an intellectual and personal journey on the road to exploring critical questions regarding the nature and remit of Islamic law and its efficacy and application in the contemporary world. It highlights some of the serious challenges Islamic law confronts in the twenty-first century, both from within itself as well as from its interaction with the outside world, including issues of globalisation and scientific development. The paper advances the argument that Islamic law is an evolutionary, dynamic, responsive and multi-dimensional phenomenon capable of generating responses from within its varied and rich traditions, its plurality and inbuilt transformative processes. It suggests that a bottom-up contextual methodology towards ‘textual’ Islamic law may potentially offer a more grounded understanding and develop responses to contemporary challenges in Islamic law.