Qur’ānic Hermeneutics with Reference to Narratives: A Study in Classical Exegetical Traditions

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**ABSTRACT**

This dissertation is a critical study of the hermeneutical analysis used in classical tafsīr with reference to some Qur’ānic narrative passages. It examines those discourses that are related to these narrative passages by producing a comparative review of the some widely used Qur’ānic commentaries—namely, those by Hūd ibn Muḥakkim, al-Ṭabarī, al-Zamakhsharī, al-Tha’labī, al-Rāzī, al-Ṭabrisī, Ruzbihān al-Baqī, and Nisābūrī. It critically studies the conditions that influenced the interpreters' prejudices and preconceptions. Also, this research critically analyzes the gap that exists between these Qur’ānic narratives and their interpretations. This research consists of five chapters.

The first two chapters deal with hermeneutics and narratives with respect to approaches and methods. The last three chapters are case studies, which explore the hermeneutical discourses related to these narratives. An analysis of the early methods of exegesis used on selected Qur’ānic narrative passages—conducted through the interrelated concepts of linguistics, grammar, lexicography, mysticism, history, textuality, and theology—will serve as the framework within which to study the level of understanding of these interpreters of the Qur’ānic text and their impact on the Muslim community. Critical research is conducted and primary sources are used to study how these exegetes understood the Qur’ānic text and contextualized the available knowledge to interpret Qur’ānic narratives on the literary, textual narrative, theological, and mystical levels.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .................................................................................................................. 1
1. HERMENEUTICS ............................................................................................................ 5
  1.1 Muslim Approaches to Hermeneutics ........................................................................ 12
2. NARRATIVE .................................................................................................................. 17
  2.1 Muslim Approaches to Narrative ............................................................................ 21

CHAPTER ONE: QUR’ANIC HERMENEUTICS .................................................................... 31
INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................ 31
  1.1 CLASSICAL UNDERSTANDINGS ............................................................................. 35
    1.1.1 The Formative Period of Ṭafsīr ........................................................................ 36
    1.1.2 The Classical Schools of Ṭafsīr ...................................................................... 39
  1.2 DISCUSSION OF THE LITERATURE; THE EXEGETES AND THEIR WORKS .............. 57
    1.2.1 Hūd b. Muḥammad al-Hawwārī (d. 280 or 290/893 or 902) .............................. 59
    1.2.2 Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. Jaʿrī al-Ṭabarī (d. 310/923) ....................................... 63
    1.2.3 Abū ʿAbd Allāh Ahmad ibn Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm al-Thaʿlabī (d. 427/1035) ...... 66
    1.2.4 Abū ʿAli Faḍl ibn al-Ḥasan al-Ṭabarī (d. 548/1154) ...................................... 75
    2.1.5 Abū ʿAli Faḍl ibn al-Ḥasan al-Ṭabarī (d. 548/1154) ...................................... 75
    2.1.6 Abū ʿAbd Allāh b. ʿUmar al-Husayn Fākhr al-Dīn al-Ṭabarī (d. 606/1209) ........ 80
    2.1.7 Abū Muḥammad ibn Abī Naṣr Shīrāzī Ṭabīb al-Baqī (d. 606/1209) ............... 82
    2.1.8 Nizām al-Dīn b. al-Ḥasan ibn al-Ḥusayn al-Khuṣaynī Nisābūrī (d. 728/1327) .... 85
CONCLUSION .................................................................................................................. 87

CHAPTER TWO: THE CLASSICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE QUR’ANIC NARRATIVE ......... 91
INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................ 91
  2.1 THE EXEGETICAL CONCEPTS OF NARRATIVE ..................................................... 95
    2.1.1 The Semantic Range of qīṣṣah ........................................................................ 96
    2.1.2 The Semantic Range of nābā .......................................................................... 99
    2.1.3 The Semantic Range of ʿadīth ........................................................................ 103
    2.1.4 The Semantic Range of uṣṭūraḥ .................................................................... 105
  2.2 SOURCES AND EXEGETICAL METHODS OF NARRATIVE .................................... 109
    2.2.1 The Qurʾān .................................................................................................... 110
    2.2.2 The Prophetic Ḥadīth .................................................................................... 114
    2.2.3 Grammar, Lexicography, and Linguistics ....................................................... 120
    2.2.4 Mysticism and Theology ............................................................................. 123
  2.3 THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF NARRATIVE .................................................... 129
CONCLUSION .................................................................................................................. 134

CHAPTER THREE: LITERARY HERMENEUTICS AND THE QUR’ANIC NARRATIVE .......... 139
INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................ 139
  3.1 THE FUNCTIONS OF THE RULES OF THE ARABIC LANGUAGE ............................. 147
    3.1.1 The Grammatical Hermeneutics .................................................................... 149
    3.1.2 The Function of the Variant Readings (qirāʾāt) ................................................. 153
    3.1.3 The Grammatical and Lexicographical Hermeneutics .................................... 157
  3.2 THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTION OF IJĀZ ................................................................. 171
    3.2.1 The Function of Naẓm .................................................................................. 172
CONCLUSION .................................................................................................................. 186

CHAPTER FOUR: TEXTUAL NARRATIVE HERMENEUTICS AND THE QUR’ANIC NARRATIVE ................................................................................................................ 191
INTRODUCTION ................................................................................................................ 191
  4.1 UNDERSTANDING THE TEXTUAL NARRATIVES .................................................... 198
  4.2 HISTORICAL ASPECTS ......................................................................................... 207
4.3 THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS .............................................................................................................222
CONCLUSION .......................................................................................................................................238

CHAPTER FIVE: THEOLOGICAL AND MYSTICAL HERMENEUTICS AND THE QUR’ÄNIC NARRATIVE ...243
INTRODUCTION .......................................................................................................................................243
5.1 THEOLOGICAL AND MYSTICAL HERMENEUTICS OF ABRAHAM’S NARRATIVE ...................248
5.1.1 God’s Oneness ..........................................................................................................................251
5.1.2 God’s Reviving The Dead ........................................................................................................273
CONCLUSION .......................................................................................................................................289
CONCLUSION .......................................................................................................................................293
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....................................................................................................................................309
PRIMARY SOURCES ..........................................................................................................................309
SECONDARY SOURCES .......................................................................................................................309