

Research Paper

The Role of Supplications and Ziyarats in Quranic Interpretation

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

The present study aims to elucidate the role of supplications (Ad'iyah) and Ziyarats (visitation prayers) in the interpretation of the Quran. Supplications and Ziyarats are part of the narrational heritage of the Infallibles (A.S), and in Quranic exegesis, they not only teach the method of interpretation but also serve as one of the most important sources of interpretation. Due to reasons such as the precise transmission of wording and textual structure, they hold a higher status compared to other interpretive narrations. Referring to supplications and Ziyarats is essential for uncovering the meanings of the verses and explaining how interpretive

narrations are connected to the Quranic verses.

The most important reason for the limited use of supplications and Ziyarats is the lack of awareness of their role in interpretation, although other factors, such as weak chains of transmission (sanad) and the claim of exaggeration in some texts, have also contributed.

2. Research Method

This study, conducted using a descriptive-analytical approach, explains the role of supplications and Ziyarats in Quranic interpretation. Recognizing and believing in supplications and Ziyarats as sources of interpretation, along with understanding their role in comprehending the Quran and appropriately utilizing them to identify the correct method of interpretation, helps the exegete in

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accurately understanding the verses. This includes understanding how the Infallibles (A.S) discovered the connections between verses and derived final conclusions from them.

3. Findings

The most significant roles of supplications and Ziyarats in Quranic interpretation are as follows:

A) **Explaining and elucidating the meanings of verses:** Numerous interpretive points are found in the supplications and Ziyarats narrated by Ahl al-Bayt (A.S). Each section of supplications, such as Dua al-Jawshan al-Kabir, Ziyarat al-Jami'ah, and Al-Sahifa al-Sajjadiyya, can be considered an interpretive narration. Familiarity with these texts and their full utilization alongside other interpretive sources is a fundamental solution for reaching Quranic teachings.

B) **Resolving apparent contradictions in verses:** Two essential conditions for correctly understanding Quranic verses are the proper selection of necessary information and its logical organization (Hosseini, 2016, p. 80). If the necessary information is not correctly selected or logically organized during interpretation, the exegete's understanding of the verses will be flawed, potentially leading to incorrect interpretations or even the illusion of contradictions. Utilizing supplications and Ziyarats helps the exegete resolve these apparent contradictions.

C) **Identifying fabricated narrations:** Fabricated narrations exist among interpretive sources. One of the most important ways to identify such narrations is to compare them with the Quran and definitive Sunnah. The conformity of a narration with these two sources indicates its authenticity, while inconsistency suggests its fabrication (Majlisi, 1983, Vol. 2, p. 250). Since well-known supplications

and Ziyarats are part of the definitive Sunnah, the conformity of a narration's text with the content of supplications and Ziyarats can indicate its authenticity, while inconsistency suggests fabrication.

D) **Establishing the credibility of weakly transmitted narrations:** One reason for the limited use of narrations in interpretation is skepticism about the credibility of their chains of transmission. Supplications can compensate for the credibility of narrations whose authenticity is sometimes questioned.

E) Recognizing the interpretive method of the infallible (A.S) and their approach to understanding verses.

F) Aiding in understanding theological issues.

G) Explaining the apparent and hidden meanings of verses.

H) Understanding the philosophy of Islamic laws.

4. Conclusion

A) Supplications and Ziyarats not only teach the method of interpretation but also play a more significant role in explaining the teachings and meanings of Quranic verses. They are essential in detailing interpretive aspects, such as the specifics of religious laws, divine legislation, and metaphysical matters like the details of the Day of Resurrection, which are not easily derived from the apparent meanings of the verses. They also explain how interpretive narrations are connected to Quranic verses.

B) Interpretive narrations, including supplications and Ziyarats, should not be evaluated solely based on their chains of transmission. Examining the content of these narrations holds more value than assessing their chains of transmission. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on their

text and content to determine their credibility (Mirjalili, 2011, p. 128).

C) The inadequate use of supplications and Ziyarats leads to incomplete interpretations of the Quran and leaves many of its teachings unrecognized.

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Authors' Contribution

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