

Research Paper

Analyzing the Arguments of the Opponents of the Allegorical Interpretation Theory in the Holy Quran

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

Some commentators consider allegorical interpretation one of the methods of conveying concepts in the Holy Quran and believe that the purpose of allegory is to convey a special message—regardless of time and place—by expressing and presenting a true proposition or story. In contrast to this theory, opponents cite verses that make the Quran's language understandable to everyone or that describe the divine word as truthful, and consider the supporters of this theory to be influenced by Western thinkers. They also emphasize that this theory is far from the guiding

principle of the Holy Quran, and consider accepting this view to require attributing lies and deception to the essence of truth. This article examines issues raised by opponents' arguments.

2. Study Method

Documentary methods and libraries that use the fishing technique are very useful for conducting such research. In this sense, the documentary method was used to collect information about the topics. The research method is descriptive analytical.

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3. Findings

The comprehensibility of the Holy Quran does not mean that everyone benefits equally from Quranic knowledge; rather, it is a boundless sea that everyone can benefit from according to their capacity and ability. In other words, all the reasons stated from the verses and narrations indicate that the Quran is understandable to the general public at the superficial level, and at least some supporters of the theory of allegorical interpretation accept such a thing according to the definition that was presented, and at the same time, it cannot deny higher levels of understanding of the verses of the Quran.

The fact that "the Quran is the truth" should not be interpreted in such a way that no allegory should be allowed in the Quran and that the theory of allegorical or symbolic interpretation is flawed, but rather it means that there is never any illogicality in the words of God. Accepting symbols and allegories in some Quranic statements and stories is not an unrealistic interpretation or a denial of the truth of the matter. In other words, there is never any connection between lack of truth and allegorical interpretation, and this ability - especially for God, who is the Absolute Knower - exists to express real stories in an artistic and allegorical form.

The problems related to the negation of allegorical interpretation of the Quran arise from a lack of a correct understanding of the meaning and function of allegory; therefore, there is no contradiction in the Quranic verses that convey reality and truth in the form of allegory and simile. Religious scholars, while also clarifying that the Quranic verses are authentic, state that there is no contradiction in presenting these facts in the form of allegory and simile.

The statement that Western ideas influence the proponents of the allegorical theory is true for commentators who believe that only an allegorical interpretation of the Quranic verses is correct and that the apparent meaning of the verses should be abandoned; moreover, this objection is completely correct if the Quranic verses are interpreted without any evidence based on the allegorical theory. A point that should not be overlooked in this context is that one cannot assume that a verse is allegorical and symbolic without evidence. Still, there must be a proportion between the apparent meaning of the verse and the allegorical meaning. The allegorical meaning must not contradict any fundamental Islamic principles or rules. The Holy Quran has an appearance and an interior, truth, permission, and allegory, and has different levels according to the degrees of descent, so that it can achieve its goal, guiding people to the unseen world and their happiness. Because religion has emerged in the human scene to guide people, it has not omitted anything to ensure this. Sometimes it has dealt with legal issues; sometimes it has given advice and counsel using the history of past nations and tribes and has introduced models of perfect humans for the growth and elevation of man; sometimes it has dealt with the existential dimensions of man through reasoning and proof, sometimes by referring people to nature and conscience, and sometimes with emotional expressions.

4. Conclusion

The result of the discussion is that accepting the perspective of allegorical interpretation, considering the evidence supporting it, and taking into account the responses we have given to the arguments of opponents of this theory is completely acceptable.

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Conflict of interest

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