Evaluation of the Philosophical and Linguistic Foundations of the Interaction of the Quran with Contemporary Culture from the Perspective of Orientalists and Muslim Scholars

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Abstract

The theory of "the interaction of the Quran with the culture of the time" is one of the fundamental topics in contemporary Quranic studies, which discusses the relationship between divine revelation and the historical and cultural context of the era of revelation.

Orientalists, relying on humanistic epistemological foundations and the method of historical criticism, have considered the Quran to be a human and cultural text that was influenced by the religious and social environment of Saudi Arabia.

In contrast, Muslim scholars, although they emphasize the necessity of paying attention to the historical and linguistic contexts of revelation, consider Quranic revelation to be a divine and transhistorical truth that, while interacting with culture, corrects and guides it.

The present study, using an analytical-comparative method and based on the main sources of Orientalists and Muslim thinkers, examines the epistemological, ontological, and methodological foundations of the two movements.

Finally, by comparative analysis of the two approaches, it is concluded that the main difference is in the definition of the nature of revelation and the role of culture in the process of revelation. Orientalists understand interaction as the influence of the Quran on culture, but Muslim scholars understand it as "the wise understanding of revelation in the context of culture."

Finally, he proposes the theory of “directed interaction of revelation” as a framework for integrating and balancing the historicity of language and the transhistoricity of meaning.

Keywords: Muslim thinkers, directed interaction, culture, Quran, revelation, orientalists

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