



Book Review



‘Abd al-Ḥusayn Rāshid Ma‘ārij, *al-Juhūd al-tafsīrīyyah ‘ind al-Imām al-Ḥusayn: Dirāsah taḥlīlīyyah* [Exegetical Endeavors of Imam al-Ḥusayn: An Analytical Study], Karbala: Imam al-Ḥusayn’s Holy Shrine, 1437 AH/2016. 459 pp.

There is a direct and firm relationship between the Holy Quran and the line of the Ahl al-Bayt, particularly the Infallible Imams. The present book touches upon the Quran-oriented exegetical endeavors of Imam al-Ḥusayn. The book comprises five chapters. The first chapter focuses on Imam al-Ḥusayn’s life, political struggles, and the personalities who quoted hadiths from him. After the first section which deals with the personal life of Imam al-Ḥusayn, the next section presents a concise account of his political life. This is followed by a list of 29 persons who transmitted hadiths from him. In this list, there are four ladies two of whom were daughters of Imam al-Ḥusayn. Three of them were the fourth, the fifth, and the sixth Infallible Imams who succeeded him.

The second chapter of the book concentrates on the efforts of Imam al-Ḥusayn in the realm of Quranic scholarship. It deals with the Holy Quran and its abundant virtues, followed by a discussion on the cases of the revelation. The third section touches upon Imam al-Ḥusayn’s hermeneutical and exegesis-oriented approach toward the Holy Quran. Here three main methods are highlighted: interpreting certain Quranic verses by means of making references to, or inferring their intents, by means of referring to other verses (cross-referential exegesis); interpreting Quranic verses by means of referring to the conducts of the Prophet Muḥammad and those of Imam ‘Alī; and a linguistic approach by which Imam al-Ḥusayn elaborated on some inner layers meaning of certain Quranic words. In addition to these methods, there are indications that pertain to the Quranic mysterious letters, healing the sick by means of the Holy Quran, and Quranic stories and parables.



The third chapter focuses on the doctrinal verses of the Quran. In this category, three main topics are covered, namely Divine unicity (*al-tawhīd*), prophethood, and imamate. The Quranic verses that pertain to the Divine unicity are explained from three perspectives: the Holy Quran, the Prophet's conduct, and the intellectual proofs. With respect to prophethood, it is proved that those who deny the prophethood of the Prophet Muḥammad are regarded as pagans and disbelievers, that he was his prophethood was to the benefit of all mankind, and that he oversees the deeds of everybody, irrespective of their religion or faith. Going into detail on imamate, the third section elaborates on types of imamate inferable from the Holy Quran, followed by the conditions of imamate, such as infallibility and Divine-granted purity. It is due to these characteristics that following Infallible Imams become binding for Muslims.

The fourth chapter of the book discusses certain fiqh-oriented aspects derivable from the legacy of Imam al-Ḥusayn. These aspects pertain to the mandatory rituals such as ritual prayers (*ṣalāt*), fasting (*ṣawm*), pilgrimage to Mecca (*ḥajj*), *khums*, recommended alms, jihad, and inviting people to do good and refraining from practicing the abominable. These discussions are followed by such contracts as commercial transactions and matrimony or wedlock.

The last chapter of the book turns to the moral and educational aspects of the legacy of Imam al-Ḥusayn. It deals with moral characteristics of believers, e.g., patience, forbearance, helping the needy, and submission to Divine orders. This is followed by certain moral standards such as giving the right guidance to those who need it and paying alms to people out of one's own best properties. The final educative teaching comes from moral aspects of the teachings of Imam al-Ḥusayn. They are related to piety, cleansing one's soul from moral impurities, and abstaining oneself from telling lies and backbiting people.



It would be much better if the book under review had a bibliography and an index for faster access to the topics elaborated therein.

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