Difference between Isharah al-nass and Metaphorical meanings (Majaz) of the Qur'an

Usman Ahmad*

The study of Qur'anic interpretation has multidimensional issues that are discussed by the scholars of Qur'anic sciences. One issue of Qur'anic interpretation is to understand difference between Metaphorical meanings and Isharah al-nass because apparently they seem identical. Al-sarkhasi, famous *Hanafi* scholar and jurist, writes that *Isharat al-nass* is the meanings of the words that are not intended to convey and the verse is not revealed for this purpose. The hidden meanings of the words or text can be obtained by contemplation upon the words without linking the text to any other text or context.(1)Another famous scholar *al-nasfi* describes *Isharah al-nass* as the meanings of the words that are derived without need of any addendum or supplement. These meanings are meanings of the words but not aimed to relay. Furthermore these meanings are not apparent and evident. No one can perceive these hidden meanings without deep thinking over the words.(2)
The primary theme of these definitions can be concluded into the following points.

i. The meanings obtained by *Isharah al-nass* are implicit and cannot be identified without intensive meditation on the words or text.
ii. The meanings derived by *Isharah al-nass* are not intended and principle meanings. However these meanings are indispensible.
iii. To find out the hidden meanings by *Isharah al-nass* depends upon the intellectual capability and wisdom of the researcher.

Now we come to metaphorical expressions of the Qur'anic text. It is a natural phenomenon that sometimes words are used in their real meanings (haqiqi) and sometime they are used in a new perspective with new dimensions (Majazi). A metaphor is a rhetorical expression that describes a subject by associating it to another because of some resemblance and similarity. Here at first step we will make clear that what are the literal meanings of Majaz and then how it is defined by scholars of the concerned field.

Literal meaning of metaphor (Majaz):

The word Majaz is extracted from the word jaza yajuz that gives the meaning to pass, cross and to go beyond. The word jawaza that is root word of Majaz, has been used in the Qur'an in the meaning to pass and go beyond. The Qur'an says: ﴿فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَهُ هُوَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ﴾(And after he had crossed

*Lecturer, Dept. of Islamic studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

CONTENTS

1. **Difference between Isharah al-nass and Metaphorical meanings (Majaz) of the Qur'an** 1
   - ❖ Usman Ahmad

2. **A True Vision of Human Rights in Islam** 7
   - ❖ Atique Tahir

3. **Genealogical Analysis of Islamic Law Books Relied on in the Courts of Pakistan** 23
   - ❖ Shahbaz Ahmad Cheema
   - ❖ Samee Ozair Khan

4. **A Social Custom "Vani": Introduction and Critical Analysis** 37
   - ❖ Arshad Munir
   - ❖ Ghulam Ali Khan

5. **Understanding Ecology Issues and Finding their Islamic Solution** 45
   - ❖ Farhat Alvi
   - ❖ Afshan Noureen

6. **Multiplicity of Socio-Religious Perspectives among Young Educated Females at Al Huda International Foundation, Lahore**
   - ❖ Riffat Munawar, Faiqa Ghaffar 65
   - ❖ Inam -ul- Haq, Ahmad Usman

7. **The Shrines for Non Muslims in an Islamic State-- An Islamic Perspective** 75
   - ❖ Ihsan ur Rehman Ghauri

8. **Conflict Between Islam and West and Role of Media**
   - ❖ Ishtiaq Ahmad Gondal 83

9. **The Problem of the Marriage of Widows**
   - ❖ Muhammad Shakil Auj 91

Abstracts of all Articles 95

Editorial Board

Foreign:

- Akhter al-Wasey, Dean, Faculty of Islamic Studies, jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, India.
- Farhana, Loonate, Dept. of Philosophy, Virginia University, USA.
- Syukri Saleh, Director, Center for Islamic Management Development, School of Social Sciences, University Sains, Malaysia.
- Israr Ahmed Khan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Quran & Sunnah Studies Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed knowledge and human sciences, International Islamic University, Malaysia.
- Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui, Director, Shah Walli Ullah Research Cell, Muslim University, Ali Garh India,
- Muhammad Saleem, Director, Suffah Institute for Higher Studies, UK.

National:

- Hafiz Mahmood Akhtar, Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies and Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Khurshid Rizvi, (r) Head, Dept. of Arabic. Govt. College University, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Jamila Shoukat, (r) Dean Faculty of Islamic Studies and Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.
- Sarfraz Ahmed Awan, (Ex.) Director, Religious Affairs, DHA, Lahore, Pakistan.

consecutively, beginning with the title page. Type the page number in the upper right-hand comer of each page in English, and in the upper left-hand comer of each page in Urdu and Arabic.

B. Abstracts:

Provide on a separate page an abstract of not more than 150 words. This abstract should consist of labeled background, Methods, Results and Conclusion. They should briefly describe, respectively, the problem being addressed in the study, how the study was performed, the salient result and what the authors conclude from the results.

C. Introduction:

State the purpose of the article and summarize the rationale for the study.

D. Key Words:

Include the Key Words relating to the article subject.

E. Results:

Present your results in logical sequence in the text.

F. Discussion:

Emphasize the new and important aspect of the study and conclusions that follow from them.

Link the conclusions with the goals of the study but avoid unqualified statements and conclusions not completely supported by your discussion and references.

G. References:

Text and references must follow the format outlined in ***The Chicago Manual of Style*** like (al-Ālūsī, Sayyid Muhmud al-Baghdadi. *Rūh al-Ma'ānī*, Cairo: Muniriyah Press, 1353 AH.). All footnotes citing books must contain the complete title, name of the author(s), place of publication, publishing company, and date. All foreign words must be underlined and transliterated. SZIC reserves the right to change the transliteration of all historical names, titles, and non-English terminology to bring conformity with its own style.