

BEST METHODOLOGY OF TAFSIR - IBN TAIMIYAS' VIEW

Masudur Rahman Khan Nadvi

In response to a question about the best methodology of *tafsir*, Ibn Taimiya had explained his exegetical principles in a small treatise which is included in the collection of his *Fatawa*. It has been also published separately several times. Ibn Taimiya's pupil, Ibn Kathir, has reproduced this treatise without any reference to its author. This is very intriguing because Ibn Kathir is very particular about quoting his source. Professor Nadvi has first discussed various aspects connected with this issue, then he has translated the treatise in full adding necessary notes.

DUSTUR AL-MUFASSIRIN - AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY

Zafarul Islam Islahi

The article seeks to introduce an important unpublished Arabic work of the 17th century written in India in the reign of Emperor Jahangir. The work titled "*Dustur al-Mufassirin*" mainly deals with the problem of *Naskh* in the Quran, an important aspect of *Ilm-al Tafsir*. The author has discussed the views of the scholars of earlier and later periods (*mutaqaddimin wa mutaakhhirin*) about the *Naskh* in some detail. Difference of opinion among the scholars regarding the meaning of the *Naskh* and the number of the *Mansukh* verses have been also taken into consideration. Different categories of the *Naskh* have been defined by the author and explained with examples from the relevant verses of the Quran. In the second part of the work each *Surah* of the Quran has been discussed to find out whether it contained the *Naskh* and *Mansukh* verses or not. In this connection, the author has given such details about every *surah* as the place of revelation and the number of verses, sentences and letters of every *Surah*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF QURANIC PUBLICATIONS IN URDU

Abu Sufyan Islahi

This is second instalment of the Bibliography of Urdu publications relating to the Quranic studies and covers the field of Quranic researches. First instalment had covered Quranic Bibliographies, *Usul al-Tafsir*, *I'jaz-i Quran* and *Tarikh-i Nuzul wa Tadwin-i Quran*.

these were two different personalities belonging to two widely different points of time. There was a time-honoured tradition among Banu Israel to name their children after their Prophets and the pious people. Therefore there is nothing improbable if the names of the family members in both the cases happen to be identical.

Interpreting the Text of the Quran

Muhammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqi Nadvi

This paper seeks to discuss various aspects connected with the interpretation of the text of the the Holy Quran which is generally denoted with the words *tafsir* and *tawil*. After explaining these terms, the author proceeds to discuss other aspects and issues related to the topic such as prerequisites of *tafsir* and *mufasssir*, the problem of using personal interpretation of the Quran, different stages in the evolution of *tafsir*, single words, uncommon words, use of precedents and similarities, the structure of the Quranic text, the problem of coherence in the Quran (*nazm*), its advocates and opponents, Quranic stylistics and a lot more has been discussed at length and fully supported with the evidence.

HOLY QURAN AND SAJA'

Shaikh Abdur Rahman Taj

Trans. Muhammad Rashid Islahi

This is second instalment of the article regarding *Saja'* in the Quran. First instalment was mostly devoted to a discussion of the difference of opinion among the scholars regarding the existence of *Saja'* in the Quran and the conclusion was that *Saja'* is not always necessarily bad; it could be good and add to the beauty and effectiveness of the style. In this part, the author argues that basic concern of the Quran is the effective communication of the meaning and *Saja'* always comes next. By citing numerous examples where the scholars have generally ascribed particular construction of certain *ayat* to the consideration of *Saja'*, he very cogently argues that in all those cases that particular composition has been adopted for better communication of meaning and not for consideration of *Saja'*. Meaning is never sacrificed for achieving *Saja'*.

ABSTRACT

Contemplation of the Quran and Its Importance

Hamiduddin Farahi

Compiled: Mr. Khalid Masud

Pleasure of God is the greatest bliss that a human being can aspire to attain and the means of achieving this end is the Quran. This relationship with the Quran marks the highest stage of human felicity. Faculties of speaking and reading had been given to the mankind to enable him to receive guidance. For receiving guidance from the Quran, one should continuously reflect and ponder in it, otherwise it would not be possible to benefit from it as a blind cannot derive any benefit from the shining sun. As a result of constant thinking and contemplation, one is enabled to delve deeper beyond the apparent meaning. Every reality that becomes manifest not only unveils new horizons of meaning but also adds new dimensions to the realities already known by further explaining and elucidating it. It is therefore incumbent that the process of thinking and pondering in the Quran must continue.

BIBLE'S 'UKHT-I HARUN' AND THE QURAN

Sher Mohammad Saiyid

In the 28th verse of *Surah Maryam*, Maryam has been referred as *Ukht-i Harun* (Aaron's sister). *Taurah* refers to a Maryam of earlier times as 'Aaron's sister', who was apparently sister of prophet Musa and Harun. The fact that in both cases names of fathers and brothers are same, makes the problem more complex. Are these two different personalities belonging to two different ages or both the references relate to one and same person. Christian scholars have tried to build a case against the Quran and prove that the Quran has failed to distinguish between these two personalities and it is a case of mistaken identity. In their zeal to disprove the Quranic version they have gone to unseemly extents. But there are some western scholars who are not swayed by partisan considerations and have struck the truth. George Seal and Gerock are more prominent among them. The author has conclusively proved in the light of both Quran and Bible that