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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 20: The Book Faṣl ul-Khiṭab

The book **Faṣl ul-Khiṭab** by Muhaddith Nuri (d. 1320 AH) is a controversial work in Shia scholarship due to its discussion on the concept of **تحريف بالنقيصة** (distortion by omission) in the Quran. While mainstream Shia scholars firmly reject the idea of any distortion in the Quran, Muhaddith Nuri, a traditionist, based his arguments on hadiths, including some from Sunni sources. Traditionists like Nuri prioritize narrations over intellectual reasoning in their approach to religious texts.

Nuri's claim that omissions occurred in the Quran has been widely refuted by Shia scholars, both contemporary to him and afterward. One of the most notable responses to **Faṣl ul-Khiṭab** came from Mirza Mehdi al-Borujerdi, who authored **al-Burhan** to counter Nuri's arguments. **Al-Burhan** was highly praised by prominent Shia scholars. Additionally, Shaykh Mahmud bin Abu al-Qasim al-Mu'arrib al-Tehrani (d. 1313) wrote **Kashf al-Irtiyab fi Adam i Tahreef al-Kitab** to refute Nuri's claims. Nuri responded to Tehrani's criticisms in a subsequent treatise, where he insisted that he no longer believed in the distortion of the Quran.

In a conversation with Agha Bozorg Tehrani, Nuri clarified that he intended to prove that the Quran compiled by Uthman was incomplete, not that the Quran as a whole was distorted. According to most scholars, what has been lost is not the Quran itself but rather its accurate interpretations and the **asbab al-nuzul** (occasions of revelation). Moreover, some Qurans printed in



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certain countries contain errors, such as omissions and word replacements, though these are considered printing mistakes rather than doctrinal distortions.