



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 42: The Scientific Interpretation of the Quran

Definition of Scientific Interpretation of the Quran

The scientific interpretation of the Quran involves understanding its verses by utilizing new discoveries from various sciences and technologies. This approach emerged due to the Industrial and Scientific Revolutions, particularly in the West. It seeks to integrate modern scientific knowledge with the Quranic text to reveal deeper insights and meanings.

Development and Criticism

One significant commentator in this field is Shaykh Tantawi, who wrote a book titled "al-Jawahir" based on scientific findings. While his work faced much criticism, it remains a valuable resource in this approach. There is general agreement among Muslim scholars regarding the merit of the scientific approach to interpreting the Quran. However, some scholars argue that this method requires certain prerequisites and should be approached with caution to ensure its validity and consistency.

Compatibility with Scientific Discoveries

It is crucial to understand that true scientific discoveries are not in conflict with the Quran. Interpreting the Quran based on unproven hypotheses or speculative scientific ideas is problematic and can lead to incorrect conclusions. Instead, interpretations should be grounded in well-established



scientific laws. This ensures that the interpretation remains consistent with both scientific understanding and the Quranic text.

Quran as the Source of Knowledge:

The Quran itself states that it is a comprehensive source of knowledge:

«مَا فَرَّطْنَا فِي الْكِتَابِ مِنْ شَيْءٍ»

"We have not omitted anything from the Book" (6:38).

«وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِّكُلِّ شَيْءٍ»

"We have sent down the Book to you as a clarification of all things" (16:89).

These verses support the notion that the Quran encompasses all forms of knowledge, including scientific insights.

Objections and Considerations

One major objection to the scientific interpretation of the Quran is the ever-changing nature of scientific discoveries. New findings often contradict previous ones, making it essential to use only well-established scientific laws for Quranic interpretation. This approach requires a method to ensure accuracy and consistency, reflecting the Quran's primary goal of guidance rather than being a scientific textbook.

The Quran's Primary Goal

The Quran's primary objective is to provide guidance, not to serve as a book of science. It uses scientific references to demonstrate the knowledge of Allah, but its main purpose is to guide humanity. Some commentators argue that the Quran's initial audience did not have a scientific understanding, making this



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approach unnecessary. However, the Quran addresses all of humanity, including those in modern times with advanced scientific knowledge.

Methodology for Scientific Interpretation

Interpreting the Quran scientifically requires a specialized method that respects the Quran's primary goal of guidance. The language of the Quran is fundamentally different from scientific languages, being a language of guidance rather than of mathematics, physics, or chemistry. Therefore, while scientific discoveries can enhance our understanding of the Quran, we must always prioritize its primary purpose of guidance.