



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 22: The Authority of Quranic Signification

(حجية الدلالة القرآنية)

Question: According to some hadiths, is the Holy Quran understandable only through the Ahl al-Bayt (عليهم السلام)?

Answer: The content of the Quran is understandable, but not fully for human beings. The meanings of the Quran exist in layers, and it is only the Ahl al-Bayt who know them fully.

The content of the Quran is divided into three levels:

1. First Level: Understandable for those with a basic understanding of Arabic.
2. Second Level: Understandable for experts and scholars.
3. Third Level: Only Allah (and *al-Rasikhun fi al-ilm*, those firmly grounded in knowledge) know the meaning, such as the verses containing disjointed letters (الحروف المقطعات).

Nevertheless, the first level of understanding the Quran carries authority over us and establishes liability.

Hadiths emphasize the different levels of the meanings of the Quran:

عن زرارة ، عن أبي جعفر (ع)، قال: تفسيرُ القرآنِ على سبعةِ أوجهٍ، مِنْهُ ما كانَ ، وَ مِنْهُ ما لَمْ يَكُنْ بَعْدَ تَعْرِفِهِ الأئمّة.



From Zurarah, from Abu Ja'far (عليه السلام): He said, "The interpretation of the Quran is on seven levels, some of which have already occurred, and some of which have not yet occurred, but the Imams know them."

عن الصادق (ع) (حينما سأله عن تفسير المحكم من كتاب الله) فقال: أما المحكم الذي لم ينسخه شيء فقولُه عز وجل هو الذي أنزل عليك الكتاب منه آيات محكمات هن أم الكتاب و آخر متشابهات الآية "وانما هلك الناس في المتشابه لانهم لم يقفوا على معناه و لم يعرفوا حقيقته فوضعوا له تاويلا من عند انفسهم بأرائهم و استغنوا بذلك عن مسئلة الاوصيا.

From Al-Sadiq (عليه السلام) (when asked about the interpretation of the Muhkam in the Book of Allah): He said, "As for the Muhkam, which has not been abrogated, it is the statement of Allah, the Almighty: 'He is the One who has sent down to you the Book, in which there are clear verses (Muhkamat) that are the foundation of the Book, and others are allegorical (Mutashabihat).' (Quran 3:7) Indeed, people are destroyed by the Mutashabihat because they do not understand its meaning and do not know its reality, so they interpret it according to their own opinions, thereby neglecting to ask the successors (the Ahl al-Bayt)."

Amir al-Mu'minin (عليه السلام): "Allah has divided His Quran into three categories:

1. A category that both the learned and the unlearned can know.
2. A category that no one knows except those who purify their minds.
3. A category that only Allah, the angels, and *al-Rasikhun fi al-ilm* (those firmly grounded in knowledge) know."