



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 14: Integrity of the Quran: A Study on Hadiths and the Concept of تحريف

The issue of تحريف (alteration) in the Quran has been a subject of scholarly discussion, with various hadiths addressing the concept. These hadiths can be categorized based on their interpretation of تحريف, primarily focusing on whether the alteration refers to the words or the meanings of the Quran.

One category includes 20 hadiths that use the term تحريف to denote an alteration in the meaning or understanding of the Quran. For instance, a narration from Ibn Tawus and Sayyid al-Jazayeri quotes the Prophet Muhammad (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم) warning against those who mislead people by altering the Book of Allah and changing his Sunnah. In this context, تحريف refers to distorting the intended meanings, not the words themselves.

Scholars agree that تحريف, as mentioned in these hadiths, pertains to altering the understanding of the Quran rather than its text. Imam Baqir (عليه السلام) emphasized this distinction, stating that people have "preserved the words but altered the limits and definitions" of the Quran.

Another category of hadiths suggests that certain names, particularly those of the Imams, were originally present in the Quran but were removed over time. For example, Imam Abu al-Hasan (عليه السلام) is quoted as saying, "The wilaya of Ali (عليه السلام) was written in all the scriptures of the prophets." Similar hadiths indicate that if the Quran had been recited as it was originally



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revealed, the names of the Ahl al-Bayt (عليهم السلام) would have been explicitly mentioned.

These narrations have sparked debate among scholars, with objections raised regarding their interpretation and consistency with the broader message of the Quran. Despite these discussions, the integrity of the Quran as it stands today is unanimously upheld by Muslim scholars.