



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 18: Distortion

Types of Distortion in the Quran

The concept of distortion in the understanding or interpretation of the Quran is widely acknowledged among Muslim scholars. However, mainstream Muslim scholars unanimously deny any physical alteration, replacement of words, or addition/omission in the Quranic text.

Sunni and Shia Perspectives on Distortion

Sunni and Shia scholars have distinct perspectives on the issue of distortion. While some traditions in Sunni texts suggest the omission of parts of the Quran, these claims pose significant challenges within the Muslim community. Such traditions are a point of contention and are not widely accepted.

Controversial Hadith and Traditions

There are hadiths suggesting that certain verses, such as those about stoning or fighting in the way of Allah, were omitted from the Quran. These hadiths, which imply the omission of significant portions of the Quran, are a source of controversy and debate.

Shia Scholars' View on Distortion

Shia scholars have reached a consensus that no distortion has occurred in the Quran. Prominent Shia scholars consistently assert that the Quran has been



preserved exactly as it was revealed, rejecting any notion of physical distortion.

Weak and Fabricated Hadith

Hadiths suggesting distortion are critically evaluated and often dismissed as weak, fabricated, or extremely rare. The emphasis remains on the authenticity of the Quranic text, highlighting that such hadith do not undermine the integrity of the Quran.

Claims of Distortion and Counterarguments

Attempts by some Sunni scholars to attribute beliefs in distortion to the Shia are addressed and countered. The preservation of the Quran has been a paramount concern for Muslims, making the likelihood of distortion highly improbable.

Dispute on Quranic Preservation

Muslims' dedication to preserving the Quran is emphasized, with historical efforts to safeguard the Quranic text underscoring the improbability of any distortion claims.

Criticism of Sunni Sources

Certain Sunni sources and traditions suggesting distortion are critically examined and disputed. Statements implying the existence of a larger Quranic text are particularly scrutinized.

Sunni Bias and Orientalist Views

Sunni scholars are critiqued for their perceived biased views against the Shia, and the use of these disputes by orientalists to question the integrity of the Quran is highlighted. The work of Ignaz Goldziher on Islamic interpretation



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and distortion claims is noted. He evaluates two commentary books, *Tafsir al-Qommi* and *Mi'raj al-Sa'ada*. Issues within these books are pointed out, with the clarification that Shia do not rely on them for authenticity.