



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 44: Interpretation of the Quran

The topic of Quranic interpretation (Tafsir) is fundamental to the study of Quranic sciences. In previous discussions, the literal and technical meanings of "Tafsir" were explored, alongside a discussion on "Ta'wil." While some scholars consider Tafsir and Ta'wil synonymous, others differentiate between the two. Tafsir refers to the clarification of Quranic verses based on literal meanings, while Ta'wil involves uncovering hidden, esoteric interpretations beyond the apparent text.

Tafsir bil-Qur'an, or interpretation using the Quran itself, is one prominent method. It involves explaining one verse through another. This method is highly regarded, as it was practiced by the Prophet Muhammad. However, it is not the only method, as Quranic interpretation requires a comprehensive approach, considering various angles.

Another significant method is Tafsir bil-Hadith, which uses prophetic traditions (Hadith) to clarify Quranic meanings. However, scholars have raised concerns about this approach, as some Hadith are fabricated. These fabricated traditions, inserted into Islamic sources, can mislead believers about the true meanings of the Quran. The Prophet's companions (Sahabah) were often illiterate and engaged in wars, limiting their ability to ask in-depth questions about the Quranic text. This resulted in a limited number of authentic interpretative Hadith.

Other methods of interpretation include indicative Tafsir, which seeks to find signs and meanings beyond the literal text. This approach, often linked to



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esoteric and mystical interpretations, requires deep knowledge of Islamic sciences such as rhetoric, theology, and history.

Tafsir also involves a comprehensive, reflective approach, urging believers to contemplate the Quran's verses. While the deepest understanding belongs to the Prophet, Muslims are encouraged to derive personal, applicable insights from the Quran. This method remains essential for engaging with the Quran's timeless guidance, ensuring its relevance across generations.