



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Summary of Quranic Sciences

Lesson 24: Definite and Indefinite Verses

(المحكم و المتشابه)

Point: Another meaning for Muḥkam and Mutashabih:

- Muḥkam verses are those that deviant people cannot interpret according to their desires because their meanings are explicit.
- Muḥkam verses are the foundation of the Quran (أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ), and Mutashabih verses should be related to them.
- Only God and those firmly grounded in knowledge know their interpretation.
- It is not that Mutashabih verses are entirely ambiguous; rather, after relating them to Muḥkam verses or being interpreted by those mentioned, they will be understood.

There is a difference between misunderstanding the Quran and intentionally following it (by those in whose hearts there is deviance).

Some verses of the Quran may appear ambiguous at first glance and may even seem to contradict other verses or true beliefs. However, they will be understood after relating them to the Muḥkam verses, they will be understood. For example, the phrase "hands of God."

We should believe that both Muḥkam and Mutashabih verses are all from God.



Suyuti narrates from the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم):

وَأَنَّ الْقُرْآنَ لَمْ يُنْزَلْ لِيُكَذَّبْ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا وَلَكِنْ نُزِّلَ لِيُصَدَّقَ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا فَمَا عَرَفْتُمْ فَأَعْمَلُوا وَمَا يَتَشَابَهُ عَلَيْكُمْ فَامْنُوا بِهِ

"The Quran was not revealed so that some parts of it would contradict others, but it was revealed so that some parts would confirm others. As for what you understand, act upon it, and as for what is unclear to you, believe in it."

Tafsir Ayyashi from Imam al-Sadiq (عليه السلام):

المحكم ما يعمل به، والمتشابه ما اشتبه على جاهله

"The Muḥkam is what is acted upon, and the Mutashabih is what is unclear to those who are ignorant of it."

Uyun from Imam al-Riḍa (عليه السلام):

"The one who relates the Mutashabih of the Quran to its Muḥkam is guided on the right path." He then continued, "There are also our Mutashabih hadiths, like the Mutashabih of the Quran. So, relate the Mutashabih hadiths to the Muḥkam ones and do not follow the Mutashabih ones alone, lest you be misguided."

Why are there Mutashabih verses in the Quran?

1. The nature and depth of the content are such that they cannot be conveyed in short sentences. Thus, the Quran alludes to them.
2. To strengthen obedience (تعبد) and practical humility to God.
3. To direct Muslims to adhere to the Divine method of obedience and to those chosen by God.