

INTERPRETATION OF
THE
QUR'AN AND SUNNAH
REFLECTION ON SOME ISSUES

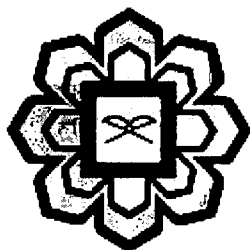
ISRAR AHMAD KHAN

Research Management Centre
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA



INTERPRETATION OF THE QUR'ĀN AND SUNNAH REFLECTION ON SOME ISSUES

ISRAR AHMAD KHAN (EDITOR)



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Hermeneutics of Qur'anic Exegesis

Critical Evaluation of Some Muslim Writers' Views

Sohirin Mohammad Solihin*

Abstract

Hermeneutics was originally to interpret the Bible with a view to coming up with original message of God. Today, this method is applied by some liberal Muslim writers to interpret the Qur'ān. Regardless of its propriety and efficacy, Fazlurrahman, Arkoun, Abū Zayd and others insist on the application of hermeneutics to the Qur'ān so as to reinterpret the Qur'anic stipulations. This approach has several pitfalls. It is quite timely to review and evaluate new hermeneutics of the Qur'anic interpretation. This paper is devoted to this concern.

Keywords: *Hermeneutics, the Qur'ān, Fazlurrahman, Arkoun, Zaid*

Introduction

The Qur'ān was interpreted and is still being interpreted by Muslim scholars. Interpretation of the Qur'ān has a very interesting history spreading over almost fifteen centuries. Various methods and approaches were used in that exercise. These methods are at variance with each other due to various objectives of Qur'anic interpretation. Among new methods developed in the modern times one is what is called hermeneutics. It was applied originally to interpret Biblical text with a view to coming up with different message. Orientalists like Kenneth Cragg, and their Muslim counterparts like Fazlurrahman, Arkoun, and Abū Zayd have tried to apply hermeneutics to interpret the Qur'an. Whether this method is appropriate to the interpretation of

Associate Professor, Department of Qur'ān and *Sunnah* Studies, IRKHS,
International Islamic University Malaysia