

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

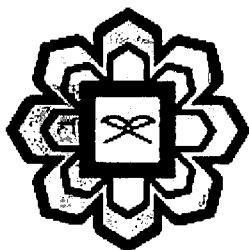
ISRAR AHMAD KHAN

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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Islamic Provision of Theft and Mutiny

An Analysis of Muslim Modernists' Approach

Habeeb Rahman Md. Ibramsa*

Abstract

There are some Muslim modernists who try to reinterpret Qur'anic provisions, instructions, and laws and also those in Ḥadīth with a view to adjust them in the new contemporary environment. Muslim modernists have suggested new method to explain punishment of theft and mutiny as prescribed by the Qur'an and Ḥadīth. In this paper an analysis will be made of this approach in order to see whether this new method to interpret the Qur'ānic provisions and Ḥadīth instructions is acceptable.

Keywords: *Muslim Modernists, Qur'anic provisions, Ḥadīth Instructions, Theft, Mutiny*

Introduction

The Qur'ān and Hadith prescribe laws and provisions for life. Two such laws are related to penalty for theft (*sariqah*) and mutiny (*ḥirābah*). In the light of the Qur'ān and Hadith Muslim jurists, despite minor differences of opinion, have ruled that the penalty for theft is chopping hand and that for mutiny is severe torture and death sentence. Some Muslim writers in the contemporary world like Muhammad Shahrūr and Ṣādiq have come up with essentially different approach to Islamic punishments in general and to those for theft and mutiny in particular. They are the view that the Qur'ān and Hadith need not to be interpreted literally. They suggest that the new interpretation of all the injunctions available in the Qur'ān and Hadith must be in line with the

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