The Quranic concept of ijtihad: A review of commentaries on the verse 4.34

A. Shafiq

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Abstract

This study evaluates the Quranic verse 'there are constants of custom (4.34) which highlight the system of ijtihad, responsibility of man to protect and manage the affairs of women.' Itidgeant that the verse has been controversial since long, especially in the feminist discourse. The commentaries are considerably concise o refer to the extent of mentioning the verse and its commentaries. Despite using a statistical analysis method, the researcher has reviewed certain commentaries of both medieval and modern times, comparing them with modern utilitarian interpretations of the verses. This study analyzed and discussed the commentaries on the verse of ijtihad as an extra of main support in this study. It also found that ijtihad, according to the commentaries, is a theoretical foundation rooted in the roots of the Quranic paradigm. Finally, it maintains a peaceful system that affords with fully complementary gender relations, emphasizing the protection of women. © 2013 International Islamic University Malaysia. All rights reserved.

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