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Linguistic Interpretations: It's Concept, It's Reasons and It's Restrictions

*Ahmed F. Abu Hazem**

ABSTRACT

This paper aims at showing that the linguistic interpretations of the religious texts are unsound and based on false views of religion, lack of understanding of the rules of Arabic and standard principles of interpretation followed by religious scholars of the Holy Qura'n. It also aims at explaining the factors leading to the emergence of such unfounded or incorrect interpretations, providing illustrative examples, such as:

- Reference and adherence to lexical items which deviate from the intended meaning ,
- Changing some lexical items used in the Holy Qura'n and interpreting them accordingly.

The paper then shows that an accurate interpretation is that which is based on scholarly principles. The most important of these is a full understanding and realization of the Arabic language as it is the main source of reference. The paper also aims at disclosing and uncovering the faults of some of ancient interpreters and some of the false interpretations suggested by so-called modern interpreters who subjected their interpretations of the Holy Qura'n to pure scientific rules and principles, without observing the sound agreed upon interpretation rules and principles. Examples of these baseless interpretations include the ones related to women (their clothing, appearance), the existence of foreignism in the Holy Qura'n, and all those deviations from the norm as stated in the Holy Book and the Prophet's (PBUH) traditions, such as the miraculous, supernatural, metaphysical and extraordinary phenomena, and the divine secret. Their intention behind these misinterpretations is to spread confusion, turmoil and misunderstanding of the two major sources.

Thus the most important aim of this paper is to purify the interpretation books and rid them off these erroneous, unfounded views, by suggesting a set of principles to control the process and guide the interpreter in giving the right views without deviating from the holy message or distorting the spirit of the Holy sources.

Keywords: Linguistic Interpretations, Interpretation Restrictions.

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