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The Transmission of Hadith from Kufa to Qom in the Second and Third Centuries

In the early Imāmī context of the second/eighth and third/ninth centuries, two 'schools' of hadith existed in Kufa and Qom, each compiling their own set of traditions. During this period, a process of transference took place in which the heritage of the Kufan school was transferred to the school of Qom. This paper examines this phenomenon and attempts to complicate the common narrative. This paper first examines when this transference took place and the main figures involved in it. Statements from figures of the fifth/eleventh century presented Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim al-Qummī (d. third/ninth century) as a pivotal figure in this process. Such statements claimed that al-Qummī was 'the first to spread the hadith of the Kufans in Qom' (*awwal man nasharah hadith al-Kufiyyīn fī Qum*). However, later scholars have raised alternative interpretations of such statements which would result in different conclusions on this process. What also needs to be considered is that there are other figures who resided in Qom prior to al-Qummī who may have been instrumental in this process of transference. The question will also be raised as to what the meaning of the 'hadith of the Kufans' meant at this time as it could be interpreted in various different ways. This will lead to a better understanding about the content of the hadith which were transferred. This paper will then examine the reception of hadith received from Kufa by the scholars of Qom. As some of the scholars of Kufa have been perceived in the literature to possess tendencies associated with the *ghulāt*, the question of whether the scholars of Qom were accepting of the hadith which emerged from Kufa will inform our understanding of the theological commitments of the Imāmīs in these two geographical locales during this early period.



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