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Beyond Historical Context: The Timeless Qur'ānic Hermeneutics of Sayyid Faḍlallāh's *'Min waḥy al-Qur'ān'*

Min waḥy al-Qur'ān, the 20-volume Qur'ānic exegesis by Sayyid Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah (d. 2010), presents a distinctive approach to interpretation that transcends conventional commentary. Though seemingly fragmented in its verse-by-verse analysis, a closer examination reveals several unique methodological characteristics.

The exegesis adopts a multidimensional style featuring prefatory summaries of each surah's prominent themes, demonstrating his commitment to elucidating their primary objectives. The interpretative content encompasses multiple elements: vocabulary definitions, critical assessment of revelation contexts (accepting or rejecting traditional narrations after thorough examination), and analytical explanations that synthesise evidence from throughout the Qur'ān.

Fadlallah employs a mixed commentary approach, integrating verses and their interpretations into coherent paragraphs, facilitating a smooth explanatory flow. Significantly, he extracts contemporary applications from the text, illustrating the relevance of Qur'ānic teachings to modern life.

The exegesis addresses controversial issues surrounding Islam and religious thought, including capital punishment, gender equality, usury, and polygamy. It provides nuanced perspectives on interfaith and intra-faith matters, whilst engaging critically with other exegetical works, particularly Sayyid Tabatabaei's influential *Tafsir al-Mizan*.

Methodologically, Fadlallah positions the Qur'ān as the paramount reference for religious knowledge, using Qur'ānic significance as the foundation for evaluating hadith authenticity and content. This approach establishes a hermeneutical framework that balances traditional exegetical methods with contemporary analytical techniques, offering a timeless interpretation that speaks to both historical context and present-day concerns.



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Dr Jaafar Fadlallah is a distinguished sociologist and Islamic scholar based in Beirut, Lebanon. He holds a PhD in Sociology from Lebanese University, where he explored the perception of the "other" in Islamic jurisprudence, focusing on the works of Ibn Taymiyya and Allamah Al-Hilli. His academic journey also includes extensive studies in Islamic law, having reached the advanced level of Hawza studies under the supervision of Sayyid Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah.

Dr Fadlallah has been an educator for over two decades, teaching sociology and Islamic jurisprudence at various institutions, including Lebanese University, the University of Sciences and Literature (USAL), and Al Mahdi Institute. His expertise extends beyond academia, as he plays a pivotal role in religious education and curriculum reform as the General Supervisor of Religious Affairs at Al Mabarrat Association.

A prominent figure in academic and religious circles, Dr Fadlallah has contributed to numerous conferences and seminars on topics ranging from religious freedom to social development. His scholarly works include several books on Islamic thought, Qur'ānic reflections, and jurisprudence, reinforcing his role as a leading thinker in contemporary Islamic discourse.