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An Inter-Quranic Contextual Analysis of the Nature of Revelation and the Revealer

The nature of Quranic revelation has occupied a central position within Islamic scholarship throughout history. Various theories have been proposed, ranging from the Prophet functioning as a mere conduit for the delivery of a predetermined text to the Prophet playing a crucial role in shaping both the content and the phraseology of the revelation.

Employing the inter-Quranic contextual method, this paper analyses key Quranic terms related to revelation and argues that the Quran is an articulation of amorphous meanings contained within the *Umm al-Kitāb*, delivered in the moment. In this framework, no fixed text precedes the Quran; rather, its physical words serve as verbal expressions of formless meanings, shaped by the Prophet's physical and psychological context as well as the broader community.

Through a literalistic analysis of key terms—*tanzīl*, *inzāl*, *rūḥ*, *talaqa*, *Qur'ān*, and *wahī*—this paper contends that the Quran's production as a recital is enacted by God qua God. However, the speaker within the Quran is an agency distinct from God qua the ineffable. This agent of revelation speaks both individually and collectively, using pronouns such as “I” and “We,” as well as “the Lord,” whereas references to God—the ineffable—appear through the pronoun “He” and the designation “the Lord of the worlds.”

In this respect, this paper situates the thoughts of Muḥammad Ḥusayn Ṭabāṭabā'ī on the nature of revelation and the revealer, highlighting his commitment to inter-Quranic contextualization and a literalistic interpretative method, as an introduction to its own thesis.



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