



Harun Sahin (Ph.D)

A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPTS
LAID DOWN IN THE FIRST VERSES OF
QUR'ANIC REVELATION:
LANGUAGE AND MEANING

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About the Author

Harun SAHIN

Was born in Corum-Turkey. After completing high school in 1985, he entered Ankara University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Divinity (Ilahiyat Fakultesi) in June 1990. For the next three years, he taught religion and ethics at a secondary school. In 1993, he succeeded in a nation-wide exam to pursue graduate degrees (M.A., and Ph.D.) abroad. In January of 1994 he went to The United State of America, and in August 1994, he entered the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin. He prepared his MA Thesis / report with the title: "Verb + Preposition Idioms in the Surat al-Yusuf in the Qur'an" and obtained the M.A. degree at the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at the university in 1996. Then, he prepared his Doctoral Dissertation with the title: "A Textual Analysis of The Concepts Laid Down In the First Verses of Qur'anic Revelation: Language and Meaning", and obtained the Ph.D. degree at the same department at the university in 2001.

At the same year, he joined the Faculty of Divinity at Harran University in Turkey and worked there for several years. Since 2013, he is working as a faculty member at the field of Tafsir al-Qur'an (Commentary) at the Department of Basic Islamic Sciences, Faculty of Islamic Sciences, Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University. He is fluent and good at both in English and Arabic. He has publications on the Qur'an, Tafsir, Arabic Language. He has been involved in some projects at his field, as well as academic, social and cultural activities in Turkey and abroad.

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About the Book

A Textual Analysis of the Concepts Laid Down in the First Verses of Qur'anic Revelation: Language and Meaning

This study presents a detailed textual analysis of selected Islamic texts to explore their linguistic, thematic, and interpretative dimensions. Employing methodologies from discourse analysis, hermeneutics, and literary criticism, the research investigates how meaning is constructed, conveyed, and interpreted within Islamic scholarly traditions. Primary sources, including Qur'anic passages, Hadith literature, and classical exegesis (tafsir), are examined alongside modern commentaries to highlight continuities and divergences in interpretive approaches. The work pays special attention to rhetorical devices, narrative structures, and semantic nuances that shape the reader's understanding. By comparing classical and contemporary readings, the study reveals how socio-political contexts, theological commitments, and linguistic developments influence textual interpretation. Furthermore, it addresses the interplay between oral and written traditions in preserving and transmitting Islamic knowledge, considering the implications for authenticity, authority, and adaptation. The research underscores the dynamic nature of textual engagement in Islam, showing that texts are not static artifacts but living documents subject to continuous re-interpretation. Through a multi-layered analytical framework, the study contributes to broader debates in Islamic studies, linguistics, and religious hermeneutics. It also demonstrates the value of integrating traditional scholarship with modern analytical tools to deepen understanding of Islamic texts. Ultimately, this work provides an academically rigorous yet accessible approach to the study of religious texts, offering insights relevant to scholars, students, and practitioners engaged in Islamic studies, comparative religion, and textual analysis.

Keywords: Islamic Textual Analysis; Qur'anic Hermeneutics; Discourse Analysis in Islam; Classical and Contemporary Exegesis; Rhetorical Structures in Religious Texts

DEDICATION

*To my parents, my wife, and my lovely children
who all provided unconditional love, deep understanding,
and continual support throughout this study.*

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Dr. Harun SAHIN (Ph.D)

This book has been prepared based on the Ph.D. thesis which was successfully finished with the title: "A Textual Analysis of The Concepts Laid down in the First Verses of Qur'anic Revelation: Language and Meaning" at the Dept. of the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at The University of Texas at Austin in 2001.

The book will focus on an analysis of the first Qur'anic verses from the perspectives of language and meaning. Over time, as with any historical text, interpretations of verses in the Qur'an have varied, sometimes radically, beginning with the word *Iqra'*, the very first word of what is generally believed to be the first verses revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, that is, the first five verses of the 96th *Surah* in the Qur'an. This study will analyze changes in these initial verses, especially the words *Iqra'* (read, recite, proclaim), *Qalam* (pen), and '*Alaq* [a clot (of concealed blood) or the early stage of the embryo]. The contested meanings of these verses are significant for their contribution to the construction of theories of Islamic knowledge and science. For this reason, an exploration of the factors -- linguistic, theological, social, political, and scientific -- contributing to differing interpretations can help modern scholarship better understand the interpretation of the Qur'an as a response to existing pressures, especially that of the West and of science in modern times.

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