

An Analysis and Review of the Article "Quran and Islamic Arts" by "Jean-Louis Michon" from the book "The Study Quran"

Abstract

The book “The Study Quran” authored by Seyyed Hossein Nasr has been published in America. In addition to the translation and interpretation of the Qur'an in English, the mentioned book contains fifteen articles on different issues related to the holy Qur'an and Islam. In this research, the eleventh article of this book with the title "Quran and Islamic Arts" written by Jean-Louis Michon has been analyzed and studied. In the aforementioned article, the author has discussed topics such as the two gifts of the sky, the Prophet's (PBUH) mosque in Madinah, the gift of integration and other relatable topics. The present article is descriptive-analytical and in order to obtain the author's thoughts, views, method and type of writing in the field of the Quran and Islamic arts, firstly the article is translated from English and then analyzed according to the thoughts and beliefs of Muslims. The analysis and review of the text, from the aspect of art, Islamic Quranic architecture, Islamic art and handicrafts and artistic verses from the author's point of view, have entered the field of writing, and while expressing the most important criticism, the strengths have also been expressed.

Research aims:

1. Examining the central issues in the article Quran and Islamic arts by Jean-Louis Michon.
2. Review of the book “The Study Quran” by Seyyed Hossein Nasr.

Research questions:

1. What is the reflection of Islamic art in the book “The Study Quran”?
2. How is the relationship between Quran and Islamic art explained in the article “Quran and Islamic art”?

Keywords: The Study Quran, Hossein Nasr, Louis Michonne, Quran, Islamic art.

Introduction

In reality, art is a skill, perception and experience of elements in life and nature and expending it to serve life. Artistic tools are one of the most expressive, eloquent and effective means of communicating and promoting a message. Art is a way of expression and performance, nonetheless, this manner of manifestation is more expressive, precise, penetrating and lasting than any other way of explanation. Art is human creativity and technical skill that seems to be guided by superhuman inspiration. The existence of feeling in man to communicate with his environment has allowed him to express the happenings in his conscience, not in a pointless way; rather, with the aid of feelings and aesthetic manifestations in the whole creation; thus, it should be presented in a new and enchanting format to increase the communication of humans through this art and this passion. Naturally, a person who has a healthy nature and mind will have a great desire for beauty. Ever since he was caught in the decline, man has always hoped to return to his true position. It was this hope that gave him a sacred vigorous attempt to reach every means in his evolutionary movement to return to "Firdous Barin" (Glorious Paradise) so that he could gain the "Cup of Realization" and quench his thirst. God also declares: "O human being, you are in trouble until you reach your destined position. O man, you will surely strive towards your Lord and you will meet him". There is no direct reference to art in the Qur'an, but according to its chapters and verses, the Qur'an is full of art, and Islamic art is derived from this Islamic worldview.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr, an Iranian philosopher, was born in Tehran in ۱۳۱۲ and left for America at the age of twelve. During his studies in American schools and universities, he learned English, science, American history, Western culture and Christian teachings. After graduating in physics, he started extensive studies in humanities. He completed his master's degree in geology and geophysics, and at the age of twenty-five, he graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in philosophy and history of science, and after returning to Iran, he became an associate professor of philosophy and history of science in the faculty of literature and humanities at Tehran University. During his stay in Iran, he also studied with Islamic philosophy professors in Tehran, Qom and Qazvin. After the revolution, he migrated to the West and stayed there and was soon recognized as a traditionalist thinker in the American scientific community. Although Dr. Hossein Nasr spends most of his time teaching students and giving lectures, this has not stopped him from publishing various books and articles. Nasr's valuable books include "Islam and Spirituality",

"Traditional Islam in the Modern World" and "Young Muslim's Guide to the Western World". Not long ago, his book "The Study Quran" was published in America. In one of these articles, the relationship between the Quran and Islamic arts has been investigated. The current research aims to examine this article.

Regarding the topic of the research, no independent work has been published in the field of writing so far; Therefore, the current research aims to investigate this issue by descriptive and analytical method and relying on data from library sources. The article entitled "Qur'an and Islamic Arts" by Mr. "Jean-Louis Michon", the eleventh article of the mentioned book, will be studied and evaluated.

Conclusion

The present research regarding Jean-Louis Michon's thoughts, views, method and type of writing contains the following results: The contents that the author mentioned in the text of the article are in accordance with the title that he chose for his article as he aims to express selected topics and materials about the Quran and Islamic arts and to convey features of this phenomenon to the audience and readers of his article. In a partial look at the mentioned materials, it can be said that the author of the mentioned article paid attention to topics such as two heavenly gifts, the gift of integration, a permanent source for inspiration and other elements. However, the mentioned article does not bring new points for experts in the science of religion and familiar with Islamic arts, but then again, for semi-experts, it provides to a certain extent useful information and aids non-Muslims and new Muslims to become familiarized with the holy Qur'an and Islamic arts. Also, the text of the article is useful for research on the level of knowledge of a French-English speaking individual who has lived in the Western world and has become familiar with Islam, Muslims, and Islamic arts.

Regarding the level of his commitment to the contents expressed regarding the Quran and Islamic arts, it can be said that this obligation is acceptable. As mentioned, the most important and original criticism of his writing is the lack of summarization of the contents as it is necessary and compulsory to provide the contents in a summary form to the readers of the article. The below table can summarize the analysis of the article.

Content	Acceptable
Resources	Some sources have be mentioned
Point of view	Acceptable
Coordination of title with article	Acceptable
The efficiency for new Muslims and non-Muslims	Suitable
Efficiency for semi-experts	Suitable

References

The Holy Quran.

Bustani, Mahmoud. (۲۰۰۸). Islam and art, translated by Hossein Sabri, Mashhad: Astan Moghadas Razavi. [In Persian].

Grabar, Alg. (۲۰۰۰). Art-Architecture and Quran, translator: Hassan Rezaei Haftader, Qom: Islam Research. [In Persian].

Har Ameli, Mohammad Bin Hasan. (۱۴۱۶). Detailing the means of Shia to the study of Shari'ah issues, Al-Bayt (A.S.) Institute, Al-Hayya Al-Tarath.

Jafari, Mohammad Taghi. (۱۹۹۱). Beauty and art from the perspective of Islam, Tehran: Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. [In Persian].

Khalandi, Anwar. (۲۰۰۰). Epistemological review of Islamic art and aesthetics based on Quran and Sunnah, Quran and Science, Tehran: Noor. [In Persian].

Khamenei, Ali. (۱۹۹۴). Art from the point of view of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei (Damat Barakate), Islamic culture publishing. [In Persian].

Majlesi, Mohammad Baqir bin Mohammad Taghi. (Beta). Bihar al-Anwar al-Jamaa leder Akhbar al-Imam al-Athar (AS), Qom: Dar Ihya al-Trath al-Arabi.

Mousavi Lar, Ashraf Al Sadat. (۲۰۱۱). The place of themes of Islamic art and Quranic studies in academic researches, Tehran: Islamic Art Studies. [In Persian].

Nouri, Hossein bin Mohammad Taqi. (۱۹۸۹). Mustadrak Al-Wasail, Al-Al-Bayt (AS) Institute, Qom: Al-Hayya Al-Tarath. [In Persian].

Qaraeti, Mohsen. (۲۰۰۹). Tafsir Noor, Cultural Center of Lessons from the Qur'an, Tehran: Noor. [In Persian].

Tabatabaei, Seyyed Mohammad Hossein. (۱۹۹۶). Al-Mizan fi Tafsir al-Qur'an, Tehran: Dar al-Kitab al-Islamiya. [In Persian].