

The Unity of the Islamic Ummah and the Encounter of Civilizations: A Case Study of Hajj Hypothesis Images in Painting

Abstract

Hajj, in Islamic culture, is a symbol of the unity of the Islamic Ummah. Due to its importance in Islamic societies and among Islamic artists, it has appeared in many works of art, one of which is undoubtedly the art of painting. The unity of the Islamic Ummah is that all Muslims, despite their different views and tastes, act unitedly and harmoniously against common enemies. Unity does not mean abandoning religions and their opinions and creating a new religion. Today, the enemies of Islam target not only Muslims, but also Islam, the Qur'an and valuable Islamic ideals. In the interim, a number of unaware and prejudiced people disrupt the unity of the Prophet's Ummah by citing baseless reasons and thus bring the anti-Islamists closer to their goals. Imam Musa Sadr is one of the personalities who investigated the foundations of Islamic unity. The present research has been written in a descriptive and analytical way while relying on data from library sources. The research findings indicate that Hajj is one of the manifestations of Islamic unity and can be a representation of the Islamic civilization to other nations.

Research aims:

١. Examining the religious foundations (jurisprudence, theology and ethics) of the principle of unity in the Islamic Ummah with a focus on the thoughts of Imam Musa Sadr.
٢. Examining Islamic unity in performing Hajj in paintings.

Research questions:

١. What is the position of Islamic unity in Imam Musa Sadr's notions?
٢. How is the concept of Hajj reflected in the art of painting?

Keywords: religious foundations, unity of the Islamic Ummah, Imam Musa Sadr, Hajj, painting.

Introduction

From the point of view of the Quran, the necessity and importance of unity is one of the most basic social and religious issues of Muslims. The solitary goal in the shadow of worshipping the One God, the Qur'an's warning about the consequences of differences and grasping the divine rope for ultimate grace are among the palpable examples of the Qur'an's emphasis on unity. Disagreement leads to weakness and powerlessness in front of the enemies and loss of grandeur and greatness; therefore causing a painful end and as a result the domination of the enemies. Creating unity and brotherhood among Muslim nations and individuals around the world are one of the original goals and ideals of Islam, which is rooted in the Qur'an, the Sunnah, and the opinions of Islamic religious thinkers. For the realization of this goal and the formation of a united Islamic Ummah, which is aimed at the elevation, honor, greatness and authority of the Islamic world, unity on the axis of the principles and foundations of religion and the common beliefs and not fueling divisive issues in this field are essential. Almighty God introduces unity based on the leadership of God and His Messenger and his successors as the factor of maintaining the solidarity and unity of the people, and this centrality can bring many blessings and works. Therefore, only in a society where the marigold flower of "unity of the word" grows, one can smell the pleasant smell of prosperity and innovation and hope for the strengthening of moral and human values and the spread of justice and spirituality, and it is then that the mercifulness of God and the breeze of reformation and real construction will be observed. Considering the extent of relations between civilizations, recognizing the foundations of Islamic unity and the effective factors in spreading this feature has an important role in the future of Islamic societies and the survival of Islamic culture. One of the great contemporary thinkers who studied the issue of unity and its foundations in Islamic jurisprudence and law is Imam Musa Sadr, whose ideas can reveal important points in this field. In the meantime, one of the important symbols of the manifestation of Islamic unity is performing Hajj rituals. A ritual that gathers different religious groups and trends in Islam and different countries in a single place. Analyzing this concept in Islamic painting can determine the role of this religion throughout the history of Muslim life.

Examining the background of this research indicates that so far, no independent work with this title has been published in the field of writing. However, some works have investigated the category of Hajj in painting, the most important of which is an article by Shayestehfar (۲۰۱۰)

entitled "Hajj Rituals in Islamic Painting and its role in National Solidarity and Islamic unity". In this work, the author has examined the paintings of the Ilkhanid, Timurid, and Ottoman periods. Imam Musa Sadr's thoughts concerning the unity and confrontation of civilizations are not mentioned in this article. The present research is based on the descriptive and analytical method and the data of library sources and seeks to investigate the central theme of Islamic unity, how it appears in Hajj and its representation in Islamic painting.

Conclusion

If the Islamic Ummah seeks to transform itself, it can achieve this goal only under the shadow of unity. Today, more than ever, Muslims should put aside their differences and contemplate about establishing unity against their enemies who have attacked a large part of the Muslim Ummah. Muslims should consider themselves obliged to fulfill every duty they have in creating the unity of their Islamic Ummah. Nonetheless, it will not be without grace to point out that the deepening of good Islamic relations is also effective in strengthening Islamic unity. Some researchers and thinkers have stated that the origin of the conflict between the Islamic Ummah is political, and many active Iranian reformers have emphasized on political and social solutions to create union. This opinion and solutions are based on the hypothesis that to achieve convergence in the Islamic world, civil political solutions are ahead of religious solutions, and the reasons for this claim are that the flexibility in religious issues that have holiness is low, and the maximum is that the followers of religions observe insults and destructions and respect the sanctity between each other. Nonetheless, political solutions are more flexible and have the possibility of realization and better objectivity in the current situation. Muslim thinkers pay attention to the importance of the unity of the Islamic Ummah as a strategy, and place unity at the top of their activities. Also, they stand up against extremists and radicals; moreover, slandering each other has always caused the weakness of the Islamic Ummah and this occurrence is a disaster especially in the current situation, which is the era of virtual space and technology. Consequently, there seems only one way to save Muslims and their valuable unity. In addition, Hajj has been a gathering place for all the Muslims of the world since the first years of the emergence of Islam and is a manifestation and symbol of their global unity. The importance of this topic is one of the important religious themes practiced throughout Islamic history in the Muslim community, especially among Muslim artists. In the meantime, painters in the Islamic period have used this theme abundantly in their works.

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