Comparative Analysis of Muttaqīn (Hammām) Sermon in Pioneering Sources

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Abstract

The sermon of Muttaqīn (the pious), also known as Hammam, is one of the most impactful and extensive sermons of the Nahj al-Balāghah. Because of the sermon's important content, and considering the name of Hammām is unspecified in the sermon and Rijāli sources, it becomes necessary to perform an independent examination of authenticity for this particular sermon. For instance: 1. What is the history behind the Muttaqīn sermon in leading sources of Shia and non-Shia? 2. Is the text and content size the same in all the leading book sources? 3. What are the results and findings of comparing and adapting the sermon's content in the pioneering sources? By using the adaptive method for analyzing the exclusive authenticity of Hammām's text existing in sources written before the seventh century, this article presents that: the Mottaghin sermon or narration has been embodied into three specific types in the principal resources that have partial and general differences with each other; in a way that the text of some sources differs entirely with the text of Nahj al-Balāghah. Furthermore, accounting for the textual differences of other sources relative to their date of publication, it seems that the text of the primary narration that had around a hundred-word count and existed among the original works of the Arab culture was eventually detailed by some elders of hadith and preaches; these additions and changes in the original text of narration has been transformed to evolve into four distinct groups of narrations with different writing styles among the authors and copiers over time to become the Hammām sermon we know today.

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