

## **A Critical Review of the Critical Books of Orientalists on the Holy Quran**

**Prof. Dr. Matloob Ahmad**

Head of Department, Arabic and Islamic Studies, The University of Faisalabad,  
Faisalabad, Pakistan

**Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Sarfraz Ghani**

Assistant professor Islamic Studies (Visiting) , University Of Education Lahore,  
Pakistan, Faisalabad Campus

**Dr. Muhammad Qasim**

Ex. Visiting Lecturer in Islamic Studies, Jaranwala Center, Allama Iqbal Open  
University Islamabad, Pakistan

**Dr. Uzma Begum**

Principal, Govt Postgraduate Girls College khrick Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan

**Mubashar Husnain**

M.Phil Scholar The University of Faisalabad

**Dr. Rana Amanullah**

Assistant Professor Arabic Numl Islamabad

**Abstract:** *The Holy Qur'an is a book of guidance from Allah Almighty for all mankind until the Day of Judgment. Regarding this book, Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said in his last sermon that as long as the members of the Muslim Ummah maintain their relationship with this book, they will always be successful and efficient, and when they leave this book, they will be unsuccessful and useless. The Muslims of this book Rushdo Hidayat have performed various services, are giving and this series will continue till doomsday. Apart from Muslims, non-Muslims, especially*

*Orientalists, have also done various works on the Holy Qur'an, but they do not have the same goals behind their work as the goals of Muslims. Whatever the works done by the Orientalists, they have become famous in the academic circles. Now there is no shortage of scholars who are not aware of the scholarly struggle of Orientalists, their research achievements and their impact. So far, we are generally unaware of the attitudes of the Orientalists and the relevance of their scholarly works with reference to Islamic studies in general and the study of the Qur'an in particular. It is necessary that people related to Islamic studies are aware of the scholarly works of Orientalists, especially their efforts regarding the Holy Qur'an.*

**Keywords:** *Orientalists, Books of Orientalists, Critical, The Holy Quran, Critical Review.*

### **Term of Orientalist:**

The Orientalist movement was active for centuries, but there was no formal name for this movement. The word orientalist was first used in 1630 for a priest of the Eastern Greek Church, in England around 1779 and in France around 1791. There was a period when the Orientalists' bias towards Islam and the Prophet of Islam was at its peak, but gradually as a result of compelling factors, this intensity decreased. And some moderate writers also joined the Orientalists.

### **Meaning of Istishraq:**

The substance of Istishraq is "Sharq" which means "shining" or the east or eastern direction from which the sun rises. Orientalism is the opposite of Occidentalism.

**Definition:**

“The involvement of non-Oriental people in the study of Eastern languages, civilization, philosophy, literature and religion is called Istishraq.”<sup>1</sup>

“A scholar who is a master of Oriental languages and sciences.”<sup>2</sup>

A scholar of Oriental languages, manners and sciences is called Orientalist.

### **Origin of Istishraq:**

The Jews and Christians had contact with the Muslims in the very early period, during the Meccan period of the Prophet's life, the Jews and Christians had begun to object to the religion of Islam, and in opposing it, and they were like the idolaters of the Quraysh. During the ten-year period of Madinah, this opposition became more intense, especially the opposition of the Jews and the series of various scandals continued. Objections continued to be made by them, some of their objections and answers are mentioned in the Meccan and Madani verses of the Holy Quran, After the death of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in the caliphate of Siddiqui and Farooqi, Muslims had contact with these people everywhere and the conquests of Iraq and Syria completely opened the way for them to meet each other. Christian religious scholars started from this time as a campaign to create familiarity with Islam and its teachings and to raise various doubts about the Holy Quran and the life of the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), but in this time, even the

Christians themselves were a little more inclined towards them. Didn't pay attention, the reason for this was that the tolerance and freedom of the Muslims compared to the harshness of the Byzantine government had created such a situation for the non-Muslim population of the conquered areas that people interpreted the arrival of the Muslim conquerors as the mercy of God and the fanatical religious leaders. At that time, people were becoming Muslims in droves, the Christian and Jewish scholars and religious leaders of Egypt and Syria were helpless in comparison.

For convenience, we divide the Islamic investigation of Orientalist Europe into four periods.

1. The first period is from the beginning of Islam i.e. the 7th century AD to the 15th AD i.e. the awakening of Europe.
2. The second period is from the beginning of the 15th century to the end of the 18th century.
3. The third period is from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, i.e. 1925
4. Fourth period from 1926 till date

Oriental Movement:

The Orientalist movement was started by John of Damascus in the 7th century AD, but this history officially began as a religious movement after the Crusades.

Orientalist style of research regarding the Holy Quran:

Unlike other inspired religions, Islam's main and fundamental belief is that Allah is one and this was the belief and message of all the prophets, the Holy Quran is not for a single sect or nation or group, but a message for all humanity. God is all inspired religions had the same foundation, and only partial differences in Shari'ah and laws and constitutions were based on the society of the time and the rise of the human mind, but as time went by, the followers of other religions used distortions and distortions. Distorted their shape.

In order to present the messages in their original form and to make people aware of their deviations and corruptions and to bring them to the true and eternal straight path, this last message was revealed by God, the Last of the Prophets, Sayyed Muhammad, (Peace Be Upon Him). It was revealed when the era of wisdom and knowledge had begun and man began to act thoughtfully and prudently, and could recognize the value of facts, and the material progress of man provided the means to spread the message of God to the corners of the world. Could have reached. The Quran says:

"فطرت الله التي فطر الناس عليها لا تبديل لخلق<sup>3</sup>

Translation: "Allah does not change the nature on which He created people".

Islam is the natural religion of man and is in accordance with the nature on which man was created and

there is no difference in the constitution and manners of God Almighty and Islam is the true religion.

Just because Islam does not support the doctrine of the Trinity, the Christian missionaries and Jewish leaders and the Orientalists under their influence made baseless accusations and condemned Islam, in order to prove the survival and superiority of their beliefs and principles. These Orientalists emphasized the most that the Qur'an is not a divine book, but the creation of the Prophet of Islam himself, and the stories and events of the Prophets, peace be upon him, are taken from the books of Christians and Jews. That there is repetition in the verses of the Qur'an and they are sometimes incomprehensible and there is no logic in the arrangement of the existing surahs and verses of the Qur'an. The source of all these objections and assumptions is the missionary effort of Christians, whose aim was to tarnish the face of Islam, to create obstacles in its propagation and to show the superiority of their religion. They are based on lack of knowledge of the basic principles and beliefs of the Qur'an, or on ignorance of the style of the Qur'an, or on the wrong translations that were done by the Orientalists. Those who unknowingly or knowingly changed the meaning of many verses of the Qur'an and presented them in a distorted manner and are against scientific research and correct assessment. But as time passed and some truth began to emerge in the research works and the culture and civilization of Islam and its assets, depth, breadth and truth became more revealed, then they

changed the method of criticism and with their commendable strategy, they began to use spears.

The Great Qur'an cannot be created by any human being and there can be no creator except the Creator. Allah says:

"كتاب انزلنه اليك لتخرج الناس من الظلمات ال النور باذن ربهم ال صراط العزيز الحميد"4

Translation: "We have revealed this book to you, peace be upon him, so that you may take mankind out of the darkness by the command of the Lord and lead them to the bright path of God, the Mighty and Most High."

It is a Book in which there is no doubt for the pious (a fountain of guidance). The Qur'an itself bears witness that it is the Word of Allah.

"وان احد من المشرقين ، استجارك فاجره حتى يسمع كلم الله"5

Translation: "If a polytheist seeks refuge with you, grant him refuge so that he may listen to the word of Allah."

For those who doubt that the Qur'an is the word of God, the Qur'an first challenges them to produce a book similar to it. Make a challenge after that.

" وان كنتم فى ريب مما نزلنا على عبدنا فا تو بسورة من مثله "6

Translation: "If you are in doubt about what we have revealed to our servant, then bring a surah similar to it."

To present at least one surah that is similar or similar to it. It should be noted that this challenge was not limited

only to the time of revelation of the Qur'an, but is open to all ages and all times. The Qur'an is unique and miraculous not only in terms of the loftiness of its subjects and its message, but also in terms of its dignified style of expression, diversity of similes and metaphors and reflection in words, its importance and its style of expression is beyond human power and inconceivable.

The immense publication of Islam is also a proof of the divine book of the Qur'an, because the proof of the divine book of the Qur'an is not only from the beliefs it presents, its psychological and metaphysical authenticity and magical narration, but also from its external it is equally evident from the influence and miraculous publication of Islam.

In view of all these arguments and arguments, even a person of ordinary understanding cannot deny that the Holy Quran is a divine book.

Objectives of Orientalism:

1. Creating misgivings about Islam
2. Abusing Muslim scholars
3. Distorting Muslim history by misrepresenting early Muslim society
4. Humiliating the Islamic culture
5. Distorting the Book and Sunnah
6. Misrepresenting worship
7. Accept or reject as desired



Famous Orientalists:

1. Theodor Nöldeke  
He was a German Orientalist.

2. Richard Bell  
It was a British Orientalist

3. Arthur Jeffrey  
It was an Australian orientalist

4. Arthur John Arbury  
This too was a British Orientalist

5. William Montgomery Watt  
He was a British Orientalist and a disciple of Richard Bell.

6. Ibn Warraq  
It is the pen name of Musawaf, who is known for his criticism of Islam and the Qur'an. Got an education. He was a Muslim by birth and later became a Dahriya.

7. Joseph Schacht  
It was a German Orientalist

8. Nabia Abbott  
It was an American orientalist.

9. Reynolds Allen Nicholson  
He was a British English Orientalist.

10. Carl Brockalman

It was a German orientalist.

11. Bernard Lewis

It was a British Orientalist.

12. Duncan Black Macdonald

It was an American orientalist

Introduction to Critical Books of Orientalists:

“The Quran an as scripture”

This book is by Arthur Geoffrey. In it, objections have been raised on the Holy Qur'an that just as the Torah and the Gospel have lost their status and many editions of them have come to the fore / the Qur'an of Muslims should also be brought to this position. So he writes:

“It is some time said that christinanity could exist without a new testomament, but Islam certainly could not exist without the Quran”<sup>7</sup>

From the similarities between the Qur'an and other divine books, the beginning of creation, the creation of Adam, his expulsion from Paradise, the stories of the Prophets, Paradise and Hell, and the secular and eternal life, the Orientalists concluded that The Holy Prophet (PBUH) derived everything from other religions, he completely ignored that the creator of the universe is one, humanity and its basic needs are one, the eternal realities and the message

of God through all the prophets (peace be upon him) is one in its original form. , and if they were compiled in the time of every prophet and there were no distortions, additions, changes or changes in other books, then they would all have the same form, and only in the Shariat, there would be a little difference in terms of gradual evolution in society.

“Mazhab al-Tafsir al-Salami”

This is Goldzeeher. In the beginning of the first chapter of this book, the traditions of seven letters in the context of Qur'anic recitation have been declared as the subject and fabricated.<sup>8</sup>

“The Collection of Quran”

This book is by John Burton, in which he has discussed in great detail the compilation and editing of the Qur'an and the knowledge of copying and abrogation from the Qur'anic sciences. With reference to various objections to the compilation, John Burton has discussed the written form of the Qur'an at the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). What do I object to being present? In this regard, he writes that:

“Its collection was not under taken until  
some times after the death the prophet.” <sup>9</sup>

In the following, he takes the view by taking the help of some traditions that due to this incomplete state of the Qur'an, its frequency has also been affected. In addition, he has narrated

from Hazrat Zayd in the Marvi tradition that his words "Faqd tō John Burton has claimed that the Qur'an is incomplete and corrupt, based on the verse "(i.e. I did not find the last verse of Surah Towbah)".

If it is considered that there are 114 surahs in the Qur'an, and these surahs are those that were revealed in different years and with a gap of several years, then the wonder turns into wonder and this is not a human work but a miracle, it is quite obvious. That is, if any writer makes such a diagram or plan in advance, it is necessary for him to know what events will happen in the next 23 years. What problems will arise, and what place will the upcoming verses have in this outline, it is obvious that the Holy Quran is only the word of Allah.

“The Koran”

This book is by George Seale, in which he mentions that the Qur'an uses ancient themes to prove the authorship of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and that the stories contained in it are contrary to the Bible. are described in We are surprised that despite George Sale's admission that the Qur'an is the original form of the original contents of the Bible, he still rates the Qur'an as inferior to the other holy books. He has established this theory regarding the Qur'an.

“Muhammad was really the author and chief contriver of the Koran in beyond dispute”

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He has used different methods for the Holy Quran in this book. One of the tricks is to misrepresent the recitation of the Holy Quran and wants to prove that just as there are different versions of the Bible, the recitations are also different versions of the Holy Quran. He writes that:

“Having mentioned the different editions of the Quran, it may not be miss here to acquaint the reader, that there are seven principle editions if I may so call them or ancient copies of the book, two of which were published and used at madina, a third at macca, a fourth at Cufa, a fifth at Basra, a sixth a Syria and seventh called the common or vulgar edition” 11

The Orientalists admit that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was uneducated, but in their obstinacy and denial of the Qur'an being a divine book, the Orientalists still say that it is the creation of the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Qur'an has shed light on many diverse subjects, how high and basic. He presented for the first time the concept of the Oneness of Allah and His Transcendence in such a way as to create in the hearts a dynamic sense of the Existence of God, His Government and Sovereignty, a detailed and coherent plan of the entire universe in which all the phenomena of nature are created. functioning under special laws, the metaphysical relationship between man and his creator, the combination of the spiritual

and material aspects of man, all the basic principles of a complete constitution of life, the life of the human soul from the time of creation to the present and its steps, emphasis on truthfulness in his beliefs and actions and thoughts and character, emphasis on the use of intellect and understanding of man as the supreme creation, rejection of man-made distinctions based on race, color, etc.

Being a community, establishing a new culture and civilization, the eternity of its principles and guidance, emphasis on the rights of Allah and the rights of people and the responsibilities of man in relation to them, etc. have been discussed. And the writer cannot come up with such a book. George Sale also admits that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was not educated. But still he says that he was the author of the Qur'an and he may have acquired all these sciences in the company of Jews and Christians. received from meetings, or from stories in the Bible and the Torah, although they all admit that these books were not available to the Prophet, nor had they been translated into Arabic until then.

“Muhammad at Mecca”

This is a book by Wat Montgomery in which he criticizes the editing of the Qur'an, he writes that:

“From an early point in his prophetic career, Muhammad thought of the separate revelations he was receiving as constituting a single Quran. After he had been a year or two

in Medina, however, he thought of them as Constituting, The Book , which it was his task to produce”. 12

"Muqadama of Kitab al-Masahaf"

This book is also written on the difference of reading, which is by Arthur Jeffrey. He has explained some words like this, describing the example of the word (Yalma) and mentioned its possible forms. 13

Arthur Jeffery has relied on manuscript appearance for editing this book. A lot of mistakes have been made by Geoffrey in describing the credentials of the above-mentioned works in Kitab al-Masahef, which definitely fall into the category of distortion.

"Muqadmatan-e-Fee uloom ul Quran"

This book is also by Arthur Geoffrey, it mentions "Mushaf Abi Ka'b", in addition to this, "Mushaf Hazrat Ali" is also mentioned in this book. In addition, it writes in it that Hazrat Ali collected Hazrat Uthman. At the time of the Qur'an, he supported and approved all measures and said that:

"يامعشر الناس! اتقوا الله عزوجل واياكم الغلوفى عثمان، وقولكم حراق المصاحف فوالله ما حرقها الا عن كلامنا اصحاب محمد ﷺ" 14

Translation: "In other words, what Hazrat Uthman burned were the sayings of the Companions, which the Companions had recorded in their respective books and burned with the advice of the Companions. With this saying, Hazrat Ali

destroyed the falsehoods that flourished regarding the inauthenticity of the Qur'an. Thoughts changed.

"The Encyclopedia of Long Faith."

This encyclopedia was written by H.A.R.Gibb. He also mentioned in this encyclopedia that the work of compiling the Qur'an was not completed during the time of the Prophet. He writes that:

"It seems possible that the work of compilation was begun in his lifetime, but it was completed only some years after his death." 15

"History of the Qur'an"

This book is by Theodor Noldeke, in which he has set the historical status of the Holy Qur'an as well as its various discussions.

"Arab Civilization" (Hadara-tul-Arab)

This book belongs to Gustauliban. The second chapter of the second chapter of this book is dedicated to the research of the Holy Quran. In this chapter, there is a detailed discussion about the compilation and editing of the Quran and the poem of the Quran. He has tried hard to bring it closer to the Gospel and at the same time he also compares the Quranic articles with Indian books and religions, he has spread with speed in the world in the context of refuting the concepts and ideas of Muslims about the Quran, tolerance of



Christians and Jews. Wali presents facts such as Quranic teachings and the unity of the Muslim Ummah through the Qur'an.

**“The Origins of the Koran”**

This book belongs to "Ibn Waraq" which he wrote on the criticism of the Qur'an. Ibn Waraq's method is to present the arguments of the Orientalists when arguing against the Qur'an and Hadith. He has discussed the creation of the earth and the sky, the belief in monotheism, prayer, the existence of jinn and also the confusion of Maryam and Maryam.

i. Prayer:

He objected to the prayer, saying that both the practice and the conditions were taken from the Jewish writings, and the five-time prayer was taken from the Sabians.

“The Five times of prayer were borrowed from the Sabeans.” 16

ii. The theory of the existence of jinn:

He has said that ideas about paradise came from Judaism and Islam in both Judaism and Islam.

“It cannot be maintained that the greater part of the teaching about genni was adopted from judism, it must rather be said to have come from the same dark source whence the jews of those time drew these conceptions, viz, Parseeism.” 17

- iii. The theory of God's rest after the creation of the earth and the sky:

He makes an objection in this regard

“It remains here to be added that Muhammad appears to allude to and reject the Jews belief that God rested on the seventh day. He evidently thought that a necessity for rest after hard labor was implied, for after mentioning creating as having taking place in six day, he adds “and no variness affected us”. 18

- iv. Objection to non-Arabic words in the Qur'an:

He has identified about 14 such words in the Holy Quran which are not Arabic in origin but belong to Hebrew, Chaldean, Syriac or any other language and used by the Prophet ﷺ in his Quran and teachings. For example Jannah. , Hell, Torah, Araf, Darasa, Rabbani, Sabbat, Saknith, Taghut, Furqan, Ma'un, Maliko, Masani, and Taboot etc.

“These fourteen words which are clearly derived from the later, or rabbinical Hebrew, show that very important religious conceptions passed from Judaism in Islam... namely the idea of divine guidance, sakinat, malakut, revelation, furqan, masani, judgment after death, janatu, and jahanam, besides others which will be broad for world as peculiar to Judaism.” 19

- v. Confusion of Mary and Miria:

One of the accusations he makes is that since the information of the Prophet of Islam is hearsay, therefore, the name of Hazrat Maryam's father was mentioned as Imran in Surah Aal Imran, while the name of Hazrat Musa's father was Umar Umm and Hazrat Musa's. And Hazrat Haroon (AS) had a sister whose name was Maryam. The West calls the first mentioned Mary and the second mentioned Mary, there was confusion between the two in the mind of Muhammad, so he considered the latter as the daughter of Imran that is why he called her "Ya Akht Haroon" in the Qur'an. He made the sister of Hazrat Haroon (A.S.) the mother of Jesus (A.S.) even though there is a gap of centuries between the two of them.

“It is quite evident that Muhammad is speaking of Mary the sister of Aaron and daughter of Imram, as the same Mary who, some 1570 years after, became the mother of our blessed savior.” 20

"The Qur'an its revelation and edition "

This book belongs to Balashir<sup>21</sup>, who is famous for his reference to the Qur'an. In his second volume, while writing on research discussions in Islamic sciences, he has tried to create false narratives, fallacies and doubts about the source of the Qur'an.

“Aqeedah and Shariah in Islam”

This book is by Goldzeeher<sup>22</sup>

The period from the 19th century to the first quarter of the 20th century is important for Muslims and Orientalists in many respects. In the previous centuries, the Islamic world had to go through a lot of difficulties and their rival, the West, after the awakening period, faced military, economic, in every social and cultural field, superiority and supremacy was being achieved continuously, no matter how painful this situation was for the Muslims, it was nevertheless welcome for the nations of the West and the Orientals also took equal advantage from it. Therefore, this period (900 to 1925) is the height and perfection of the Eastern movement. Which lasted until the beginning of the twentieth century and Orientalism flourished in every aspect, during this period the Qur'an and Hadith were specially targeted. That despite being a contemporaneous source, the Holy Quran is not an authentic and reliable source of information about the life of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, the denial of the hadith and the slander of the hadith, and of course its stories have been rejected. Specially promoted.

“Tarikh al-Adab al-Arabi” (History of Arabic literature)

This book belongs to Brockalman<sup>23</sup> and in it he has written about various recitations.

Some Others Books:

“Major things of the Qur'an<sup>24</sup>”

“Approaches to Islam in religious Studies<sup>25</sup>”

“Western Attempts at Dabing the Revelations<sup>26</sup>”

“Holy Scriptures, Lectionaries and the Qur'an”<sup>27</sup>

Conclusion:

The Qur'an and the Orientalists is a very important subject, just as the scholars of Tafsir worked for the arrangement, editing and publishing of the sources and sources of the Qur'an and the sciences of the Qur'an, in the same way the Orientalists also edited and arranged the aspects of many sources of the Holy Qur'an and the sciences of the Qur'an. Worked from The difference between these two groups is that the scholars of Tafsir used their talents as love and worship for the promotion and propagation of the Holy Qur'an and the sciences of the Qur'an. These gentlemen made the service of the Holy Quran their hobby in order to get close to Allah Ta'ala and were engrossed in this service day and night. While the goal of the orientalists was to present these sources and the Qur'an and commentary in such a way that the common people fell into doubts. Since the Holy Quran is the main source of Islamic law which is free from all kinds of distortion and mixing, on the contrary, it is also a fact that the Torah and the Gospel have suffered from numerous distortions without maintaining their original status. Probably for this reason, the Orientalists have tried to prove the Qur'anic text as their topic of debate. Have come, the holy Quran of Muslims should also be brought to the same place. As a result of the mental disturbance faced by the Westernized class under the influence of the Orientalist

movement in the modern era, false ideas are trying to pollute the original sources of Islam apart from the ideals of the Republic.

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