

Re-Interpreting the Behavior of Prophet Job (AS) Toward his Wife in the Qur'an; Focusing on Verse 44 Surah Saad

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Abstract

One of the Quranic verses under which the issue of symbolic violence against the spouse has been discussed is the verse 44 of Surah Saad. This study aims to examine the wrong deeds attributed to the wife of Job (AS) and the Prophet's encounter with her through the narratives of a wide range of earlier and later Shia and Sunni exegecies, categorizing different interpretations of the story and its major themes including the sins attributed to her, Job's behaviour toward her and the judgment of God. Critically examining these themes and their background narrations, this article provide an alternative interpretation according to the Qur'an to the Qur'an exegecy. By exploring the verses related to the story of Job (AS) as well as other verses in al-Baqarah and Al-Waqi'ah, and studying the words derived from the root of Henth, verse 44 of Surah Sa'd can be interpreted as such that God has said: "Take those stalks and strike the graves of those lifeless bodies and believe in the power of your Lord to raise the dead. "In this alternative interpretation, domestic violence against a faithful spouse does not exist, even symbolically, and some of the them found in some of the interpretations of this verse which does not fit with the principle of infallibility of Job as a prophet and accuse his devoted wife are dismissed.

Key words: Woman in the Qur'an; Job's wife; beating of wives; verse 44 Surah Saad; Infallibility of the prophets.

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