

A Theory of War and Seeking-Martyrdom as the Major Means of Imam al-Husayn's (AS) Uprising: An Appraisal of Contradictory Historical Evidence

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Abstract:

This paper aims to formulate and defend a theory that can explain rationally and justifiably the uprising of Imam al-Husayn (AS) as follows: from the beginning of his movement, Imam al-Husayn (AS) chose war and seeking-martyrdom consciously and voluntarily as major means to his ends, and used other means such as government formation, negotiation, and peacekeeping as the minor means to facilitate the major ones. To fulfill this goal, it will be illustrated that the suggested theory, in comparison to its rivals, can provide much better responses to some apparently conflicting and contradictory historical evidence, such as Imam al-Husayn (AS) accepting the demand of the people of Kufa to form a government, requesting peace, or avoiding war with the enemy. Hence, by employing IBE, we can rationally and justifiably show the suggested theory's veracity compared to its rivals. Hence, belief in the truth of the suggested theory is justified and rational.

Key Words: Imam al-Husayn (AS); Uprising; Peace; Kufa; Seeking-Martyrdom; IBE.

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