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The relationship between Literal and esoteric meanings in the *Qura'n*

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Abstract

Literal and esoteric meanings are two undeniable layers of meaning in the *Qura'n*. Scholars do not agree on the nature of these two layers and their relationship. A concise definition of the two layers and a clear understanding of their relationship along with the ways one can succeed in achieving the two play important roles in the understanding of the *Qura'n*, the religious scholarship and contemplation on the related issues. Without making a distinction between literal and esoteric meanings, and ignoring the basics in defining esoteric meaning by mystic scholars and others, have brought about some misunderstandings in the field of theology and unrealistic judgments concerning the *Qura'n* and the religion. After defining literal and esoteric meanings, the paper will try to clarify the relationship between the two concepts. It also points out to the ways in which one can get the two meanings.

Keywords Literal, Esoteric, Semantics, Relationship between Deep and Surface, Transformation.

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