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A Study on the meaning of conjecture and its ethical and epistemological function in the *Qura'n*

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Abstract

The word "zann"(conjecture) is frequently used in the holy *Qura'n* It is used in the theological and ethical issues. For instance, the *Qura'n* characterizes "khashi'in" as "those who surmise they will meet their Lord, and that they will return to him", while as the *Qura'n* elsewhere asserts that the unbelievers rely on their conjectures in their beliefs. Likewise, it says: "the conjecture will not help out in any way against the Truth." Hence, almost all commentators hold that this word has two different meanings: 1. doubt; 2. certainty. The author examines first, three exegetical meanings dealing with the meaning of "zann" in the *Qura'n* and fortifies Raghīb's perspective in this respect. Then he classifies all occurrences of the term in the *Qura'n*. Finally, he explains the logical relationship between this term and the terms such as "yaqin", "shakk", "hesban", "jahl" and "za'm".

Keywords conjecture, certainty, doubt, ignorance.

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