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Reflecting on the Analogical Approach in the Interpretation of Some Verses of the Holy Quran

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Abstract

The conflict between the literal meaning of some verses of the holy Quran due to philosophical and theological limitations has always been a big challenge for interpreters of the holy Quran. Some interpreters have chosen the literal meanings over the other meanings of the verses and some others have stuck to the interpretative implied meaning. In between, meaning interpreters like *Sheikh Mohammad Abdu*, and *Allameh Tabatabai*, and *Ayatollah Javadi Amoli* have adopted a new approach which insists on the literal meaning as a frame of reference and at the same time gives due

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attention to the analogical ontological meaning of the verses. In this view, every event like dialogue of God with angels, disobedience of the Satan, living in the heaven, deception of *Adam* by *Satan*, offering the trust of god to humans, all of which have their origins in an ontological unseen reality which is revealed in an analogical way. The present article attempts first to consider the ontological approach to interpretation and then by responding to criticisms evaluates the validity of the approach.

Key Terms: *analogy, ontological analogy, interpretation, actual meaning, verses on the human creation.*