

Validation of the Traditions of Fitrus Malik and a Critical Review of the Related Research

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Received: 09/11/2023

Accepted: 31/01/2024

Introduction

The traditions concerning the story of “Fitrus Malik” are significant accounts that highlight the profound virtues of Imam Hussein (pbuh). According to these traditions, Fitrus Malik, who is either among the exalted angels or one of the esteemed bearers of the Throne, His wings were broken and was removed from his position and exiled to Earth due to his shortcomings in fulfilling his sacred duties. On the day of Imam Hussein’s (pbuh) birth, this angel approaches the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), who prays for him and instructs him to rub his broken wings against the cradle of Imam Hussein. After performing this miraculous act, Fitrus regains his wings and returns to the heavens, proudly proclaiming that he has been freed by Hussein. This story has been widely referenced in various religious texts and has garnered significant attention in recent years, leading to several scholarly studies conducted on the topic. Each of these studies has approached the examination of the traditions from specific perspectives, analyzing their chains of transmission, content, and related issues.

Materials and Methods

This paper employs a comprehensive descriptive-analytical approach and utilizes extensive library research methods to examine and critique the studies conducted in this area. Various articles and other reliable sources related to the topic of Fitrus Malik have been reviewed. The primary aim of this research is to critically assess the authenticity and validity of these traditions, as well as the different opinions regarding their chains of transmission and texts. Furthermore, efforts have been made to enhance and complete the topic by providing credible evidence and relevant indicators.

Results and Findings

The findings of this research indicate that the traditions related to the story of Fitrus Malik are cited in at least seven primary sources and fifteen references

from early hadith communities, as well as eleven later sources. Additionally, various pieces of evidence and indicators exist in other sources that enhance the credibility of this tradition, which is supported by numerous corroborative sources. Other similar traditions, such as the supplication attributed to Imam al-Askari (pbuh) and various poetic expressions, further substantiate this story. Thus, the prevalence of the story of Fitrus Malik in the transmitted traditions from various credible Shiite hadith communities is such that the claim of its widespread acceptance is entirely valid and demonstrable. Moreover, the doubts and textual criticisms raised against these traditions, when considered through a proper understanding of the realm of the immaterial and distancing from a materialistic mindset, align with rational and transmitted principles, resolving textual and interpretative issues related to the story. The analogy of the intelligible to the tangible and the use of terms based on their true meanings are two fundamental principles that, when taken into account, provide researchers with correct interpretations of this story. It is also important to note that the tradition of Fitrus Malik, like many religious texts related to the creation, is expressed in the language of legislation and in the context of the realities of existence, and it does not imply that angels possess human-like free will or the ability to disobey God.

Conclusion

This research concludes that the story of Fitrus Malik is not only recounted in credible religious texts but can also be regarded as a valid and reliable account due to the existing evidence and asnads. The examination of the chains of transmission and the texts of these traditions reveals that the overarching purpose of recounting this story is to demonstrate the virtue, greatness, and status of Imam Hussein (pbuh) from the moment of his birth in the sight of God Almighty, and that his intercession is accepted in both this world and the Hereafter. These traditions can contribute to a deeper understanding of the virtues of Imam Hussein (pbuh) and his role in the universe. Therefore, it is essential to focus on issues related to angels, the characteristics of the immaterial realm, and their attributes, leading to a better understanding of religious texts and the related traditions. These results indicate that the traditions of Fitrus Malik are not only credible in terms of their chains of transmission but also align with rational and religious principles in their content.

Keywords: Fitrus, Imam Hussein, Angels, Realm of the Intangible.