

Muṣḥaf al-Ṣaḥābah: A Critical Study in the Context of Qur'anic Compilation

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Abstract

This study critically examines the personal codices (Mushaf) attributed to the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) in the context of the compilation and preservation of the Qur'an. These codices refer to complete written collections of the Qur'an maintained by individual Companions, rather than partial writings of a few verses. During the Prophet's lifetime, revelations were both memorized and recorded on various materials such as parchment, leaves, bones, and stones. Prominent scribes, including Zayd ibn Thabit and Ubayy ibn Ka'b, meticulously transcribed the Qur'an, while other Companions maintained personal copies according to their capacity and convenience. The research highlights the diversity among these personal codices, including variations in verse arrangement, calligraphy, brief explanatory notes, readings, and occasional differences concerning abrogated verses. Despite these variations, the essential Qur'anic text remained consistent. Following the Prophet's passing, Abu Bakr ensured a unified compilation, which was later standardized during Caliph Uthman's reign to prevent discrepancies across the Muslim community. The study also addresses historical misconceptions raised by Orientalists regarding the destruction of non-standard codices, emphasizing that standardization was based on consensus among the Companions and preserved the Qur'an's integrity.

Keywords

Companions' Mushafs; Qur'anic compilation; Mushaf Abu Bakr and Uthman; early manuscripts; personal copies; qira'at; preservation; historical Qur'anic study.