



BASMALAH

SOME EXEGETICAL INSIGHTS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

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A B S T R A C T

Contrary to the materialistic view about Man being an evolved animal or a rational animal (*ḥayawān nāṭiq*) and the religious view seeing Man's existence on earth due to "fall of Man" as a consequence of an "Original Sin," Islamic Teachings inform that Man in fact has a very noble origin and a unique status of being Allah's Caliph on earth. His lofty assignment is to manage the human as well as all other resources and affairs of the earth and the universe on command of the Creator. This assignment can be rightfully performed only if it is performed in accordance with the instructions of the Creator and the sovereign Allah, which is possible only if His Majesty and Favours always remain fresh and live in the human mind. It becomes all the more inevitable, in the wake of the challenge posed by the declared enmity and all out perpetual deceptive war, till the last day, by Satan who aspired that the position of Allah's Caliph be given to him instead of Man. Therefore, always keeping Allah's Majesty and Favours alive in human mind and seeking His Protection is inevitable for Man to perform his assignment rightfully. To achieve this objective *Basmalah* plays a crucial role in Islamic way of life. This paper, in this backdrop, first presents some exegetical insights regarding contents, signification and status of *Basmalah* in the Qur'ān and then delves in its practical applications in the Islamic way of life.

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