Lecture Abstract

In the modern era of Islamic thought fresh interpretations of the Qur'an have been developed by Muslim thinkers and scholars. They mostly followed almost every philosophical and ideological trend which appeared in modernity within the last two hundred years. The issue of 'polygamy' has been one of the repeatedly visited new interpretations of the Muslim Holy Scripture due to the modern concept of 'equality'. Recent works, which assume a historicist approach, on the related verses of the Qur'an have produced the same 'monogamist' outcome as the earlier modernist interpretation samples. The talk will methodologically criticize the particular interpretations adopting a radical historical-critical perspective to attain to what the verses really meant in their original settings.

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Dr. Pacaci, who specializes in Quranic exegesis, received his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in theology from Ankara University. He defended his Ph.D. dissertation, titled "Eschatological Beliefs in the Quran and in the Bible," in 1989.

He has taught at Malaysia/Kuala Lumpur International Islamic University and lectured at the Pontifical Gregorian University and Bamberg University. Much of his work focuses on hermeneutical problems of interpreting and understanding Muslim Holy Scripture. His interests also include the historical setting of the Quran, pre-Islamic Arabian and Semitic culture as a background of the Quranic message, and modern approaches in the commentary of the Quran in comparison with classical understanding of Islam.

Dr. Pacaci recently published "What Happened to the Quran in the Modern Era?"