

Studying the Connections and Commonalities of the Stories of Surah al-Kahf¹

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Abstract

One of the best ways to make the audience learn educational and abstract content by heart is the use of sensory aspects and experiences. In this method, subordinate and tangible structures, in a meaningful relationship, complete and confirm the intended educational and abstract concepts. Thus, smaller semantic structures create larger structures because of a semantic coherence and a next-to-each-other placement on the syntagmatic axis. One can analyze, using the same method, the Qur'anic subordinate stories that have emerged along with the main story in certain surahs. One of these surahs is Surah al-Kahf, in which four stories of "the Seven Sleepers, the Owner of Two Gardens, Mūsā (AS) and Khidr, and Dhul-Qarnayn" have come together. These stories are independent of each other and are related to different nations and communities living in distinct eras. The present paper thus seeks to investigate the literary reasons and tools of the compresence of these four stories in the same surah and to illustrate their connections. What was finally found as a result of this study is that there are a number of commonalities in the stories' topics that have intertwined and connected the four stories. The common points include that the connection among the locations of the quadruple stories is sequential and ascensional. Furthermore, time, in the three subordinate stories, is aligned with the central story (the Seven Sleepers). There are also more than ten content connections between the stories, including the stories' inclusion of a wrong deed, stagnation and dissemination, trial, clothing and protection.

Keywords: *characterization, scenery, semantic coordination, Surah al-Khaf*

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