

Reflections of Qur'anic Interpretations of Masnavi-i Ma'navi in Sultan Walad's Masnavies

Davood Vaseghi,¹
Mahdi Maleksabet²
Mohammad Kazem Kahdooyi³

Abstract

Masnavi-i Ma'navi is an impressive work in the realm of Islamic mysticism, where Molavi using his Qur'anic discourse, provides disciples with many teachings. He also has certain opinions regarding Qur'anic interpretations and by means of his mystic intuition, he tried to explicate different semantic aspects of Qur'anic ayahs. The first person who imitating Molana wrote another Masnavi was his son Sultan Walad who enjoyed the teachings of Masnavi-i Ma'navi. Although he found a new way of experience in mysticism, his cognition and logic are very much affected by Mevlevi Order especially his father's. Pondering on his three Masnavies reveals that many Qur'anic interpretations available in Molana's Masnavi have been reflected in his work. In the present article, the authors try to examine the viewpoints of Molana with regard to Qur'anic interpretation and meanings and weigh how much they influenced Sultan Walad's Masnavies.

The results points to the fact that Molana and his follower, Sultan Walad, consider their writings as Qur'anic interpretation and believe that the words of Allah's *fāni* spiritual men are illuminating for human beings as are the Qur'an's divine revelations. As a result, the Qur'an's interpreters are those who have really reached Allah not the servants of their desires. In their viewpoints, the Qur'an has different layers of meaning and merely relying on the surface layer does not befit Allah's spiritual men at all. Molana believes that Allah's *wvasel* (joined) men can only understand up to the third layer of the Qur'an, but Sultan Walad believes that spiritual men understand up to the third layer and understanding a layer beyond that is only in the monopoly of Allah's true lovers.

Keywords: Qur'anic interpretations, Molavi, Sultan Walad, Masnavi-i Ma'navi, Sultan Walad's Masnavies

1. Corresponding author: PhD of Persian Language & Literature from Yazd University; Email: d.vaseghi@gmail.com

2. Professor of Persian Language & Literature, Yazd University; Email: Email: mmaleksabet@yazd.ac.ir

3. Associate Professor of Persian Language & Literature; Email: MKKa35@yahoo.com