

The Manifestation of God's Attributes in Job's Encounter with Suffering (A Comparative Study of the Old Testament and the Qur'an)

Rodabeh Khakpour

*Assistant Professor, Department of Persian Language and Literature,
Bon. C., Islamic Azad University, Bonab, Iran*

Maryam Esmailie

*Assistant Professor, Department of Persian Language and Literature,
Mah. C., Islamic Azad University, Mahabad, Iran*

Abstract

One of the issues that humans are seriously concerned with in their lives is the issue of suffering and hardship that one has to inevitably endure. This has always been a mental concern of humans for which they have sought a convincing answer. In the meantime, the holy books, by relating the stories of the prophets and previous nations, have sometimes addressed this issue and have attempted to provide answers considering the conditions of their time. One point that can be understood from these theodicies is that the holy books - especially the Old Testament and the Quran - have expressed divine attributes in the face of human suffering and in this way have tried to explain the subject and make it understandable to the mortals. The present study - using a descriptive-analytical method - has tried to examine and compare the manifestations of divine attributes in the face of human suffering in the story of Job in the two holy books so that through this, the divine roots of religions become more apparent than ever before and the role of divine will in human life would be apparent. This study shows that in the story of Job and his suffering and tribulations in the Old Testament and the Holy Quran, first of all, the presence of God and His "living" can be seen. On the other hand, in the Holy Quran, divine reward is also considered and Job, after suffering various hardships and difficulties, reaches divine approval. This type of reward in the Old Testament, however, is accompanied by worldly manifestations and does not have any significance regarding the afterlife and hardship.

Keywords: Job, Suffering, Divine Attributes, Will, Providence, Power.