



Değerlendirme Yazısı / Review Essay

Reviewing the Historicity of Buhāra's Meeting Incident with Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in the Orientalist and Muslim Scholarship

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Introduction

The meeting incident of Buhāra with the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has been a point of contestation both within the Orientalists and the Muslim scholarship. Muslim *sīrah* writers leave no stone unturned to respond to Orientalists' claims. However, there are some figures within the Muslim scholarship, who besides refuting the erroneous claims of Western scholars, look with suspicion at the very authenticity of this incident. Keeping this entire scholarly provocative and engaging incident at fore, the present paper attempts to inquire the incident with reference to the primary sources, highlighting the Orientalists' standpoint and equally the modern Muslim scholars' approach. A critical explanation will be attempted to situate the incident within the parameters of science of *sīrah* and *magāzi* to drive its authenticity home. The study will base on a thorough and comparative analysis of both the Orientalist and Muslim scholarship to draw an argumentative and all-inclusive conclusion.

The Muslim and the Christian intellectual debate on Buhāra's meeting with the Quraysh caravan led by Abu Tālib (d. 620 CE), the Prophet's uncle, has always been a reference point in the Islamic history. The incident is narrated to have occurred in 581 CE turned an astonishing enterprise for Christian monks fervid recognition of Muhammad's (pbuh) prophethood. Based on his in-depth theological understanding, he could unhesitatingly point out the miraculous

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