# An Early Recension of the Islamic Psalms of David

The Koranic Style and Content of Istanbul Fatih 28 and Madrid 5146

DAVID R. VISHANOFF

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

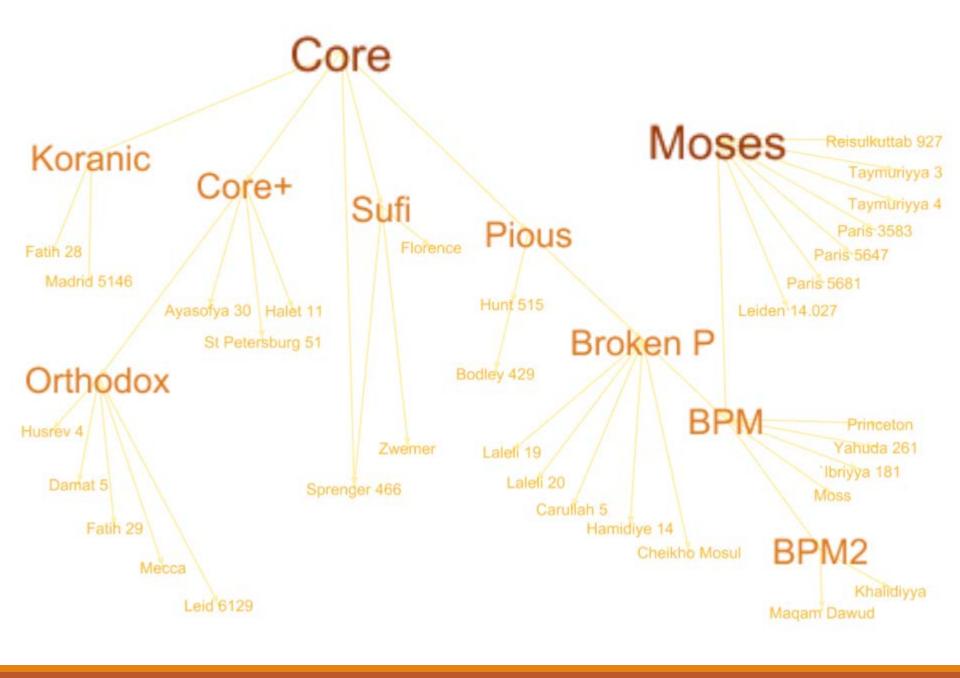
VISHANOFF@OU.EDU

مَعَ النَّهُ الرَّفَتُلُهُ حَمْثُلُ تُجَرِّقُ عِلَى شَاطِي الْمِينَ إِنَّ مِنْ الْمِينَ إِنَّ مِنْ الْمِينَ إِ كَنِيْنَا اللَّهِ وَرُفْهَا وَلَا تُنَّهُ عِلَعُ أَسُرُونُهُ ] وَهَايِفْعُلَهُ إِلَّا فَلِياتُ وَلَيْرِ الْمِنَافِقِ كَ ذَلِكَ إِنَّ لِيِّهُ إِنَّاكُمْ سَبِهِمَ الْمُنَا فِفْتِ نَابِصُ الْحَالَ مِنْ أَن لِللَّهُ يَعَلَمُ سِبِلَ لَمُقَّابِرَ



(1) Blessed is the man who does not follow the way of the wicked, who does not stand in the places of sinners, and does not sit in the seats of mockers. (2) Rather, in the law (nāmūs, kitāb, *kutub*) of the Lord he studies day and night. (3) He is like a tree on the water's edge; its leaves are not scattered, and its fruit does not fail (it gives its food and sanctifies its Lord, its leaves are verdant, it hears and obeys its Lord). (4) But only a few do this. (5) The **hypocrite** is not so, (for the winds scatter the deeds of hypocrites, because God knows the path of the hypocrites and the path of the righteous) because God knows the path of the hypocrites and the path of sinners, (6) and because the hypocrite is full of deceit and full of immorality, breaking his covenants. (7) And God knows the path of the pious, because they have the rank of the trustworthy, and they promise only what their actions will fulfill.

(1) Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; (2) but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. (3) They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. (4) The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. (5) Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; (6) for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.



- Core (reconstructed)
  - Islamic / Koranic
- Koranic (F28, Mad)
  - Koranic vocabulary
  - Mad preserves Core
- Sufi
  - elaboration
  - knows Bible
- Pious
  - elaboration

# Sura 1 continued (Core/Mad/Pious)

(8) David, tell the Children of Israel not to drive away the poor and not to cast out the orphan. (9) Let them stand before me in the dark of night with fearful hearts and tearful eyes. (10) Have they not travelled the earth and seen the fate of those who preceded them? (11) They were greater than them, more powerful and more numerous, (12) but punishment seized them unawares (and nothing remained of them but ruins and their dilapidated houses). (13) Did they not know that I am the Lord in whose hand is dominion over all things? I give aid, and none can aid against me. (14) Did they not know that I am the Lord who knows what is hidden in the heavens and the earth? (15) I am not unaware of what the evildoers do.

(1) O David, what are the nations and the peoples saying (doing)? (2) They have joined together against the Lord and his army. (3) They wish to extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God refuses that his light and his holiness should be extinguished (but God perfects his light and his holiness). (4) O David, I made you my messiah and my prophet (jaʻaltuka masīḥī wa-nabiyyī, jaʻaltuka musabbiḥī wa-nabiyyī, khalaqtuka tusabbihunī wa-tumajjidunī, khalagtuka bi-mashī'atī wa-bi-'aynī [?]), (5) but Jesus (son of Mary) will be **taken as a God beside me**, on account of the power I vested in him, making him resurrect the dead by my permission (and heal the blind and the lepers). (6) David, portray me to my creatures as generous and merciful; I am able to do all things.

(1) Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, (3) "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us." (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. (5) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, (6) "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." (7) I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you.

(1) Why do the nations and the peoples surge forth? They blaze up in their zeal to overthrow what is rightly the Lord's. The Lord says: what is rightly mine cannot be overthrown, and my might cannot be brought low. (2) The unbelievers, idolaters, and foes join together against **the Lord and those who praise him (***musabbiḥīh***)**, that their word may be exalted and God's word abased. (3) The rulers and the kings join together against the Lord. The Lord says: By my power I \_\_\_\_\_\_ed the evildoers, and assigned them their dwelling, and clothed them with the fear of me, but all this they did not \_\_\_\_\_\_; they gave themselves over to desire and tyranny.

O ye people of the earth, if you make me your refuge in your search for sustenance, I will provide a means of sustenance for you. If love of me prevails in the heart of my servant, then I become his hearing by which he hears, and his sight by which he sees; if he contemplates a good deed I embolden him, and if he contemplates evil I restrain him. (4) O David, be devoted to me, and I will cause heads to bow before you, and clothe your face with dignity.

- (5) O David, if only you could see those who do as they please to **the believers' inviolable thing(s)**. I have spoken against them a disastrous curse. I have utterly disgraced them, and have given power over their own inviolable thing(s) to one who will act wickedly toward them, as a vengeance upon their inviolable thing(s). (6) How strange are those who delight in this life, when I will hold them accountable for every fiber and speck and skin of a date pit. Those whom I call to account, fully devoting myself to their reckoning, great is their affliction at the resurrection. (7) Those who love to cast men's inviolable thing(s) to the ground, I will cast them upon the glowing coals of hellfire.
- (8) O David, once you were endowed with a deeply moving voice, before you rebelled against me; but when you rebelled I snatched the light of wisdom from your chest though if I relent toward you I will restore it. (9) O David, exalt me greatly, and sanctify me greatly! I will protect you from whatever distresses you of the affairs of this world and the next. For I surround all things.
- (10) The words of David: O Lord, what evil the people have prepared for me! But they do not realize that I am shielded and surrounded by your protection; for you reward liberally.

(1) Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, (3) "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us." (4) He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. (5) Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, (6) "I have set my king on **Zion, my holy hill**." (7) I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you. (8) Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (9) You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." (10) Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling (12) kiss his feet, or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Happy are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 3. A Psalm of David, when he fled from his son Absalom. (1) O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; (2) many are saying to me, "There is no help for you in God." Selah. (3) But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. (4) I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill. Selah.

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- Koranic (F28, Mad)
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  - Corrects masīḥ
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  - knows Bible
  - Ḥadīth qudsī
- Pious
  - elaboration
  - Sharia
- Orthodox
  - Koranic allusion

# Sura 39:7-10 (Core/Pious)

(7) I have sent down to the People of the Torah the like of what I have sent down to you. (8) O David, my books (in which I sent down to my prophets revelation and guidance) will be corrupted, and lies will be fabricated against me. (9) But whoever holds my books and prophets to be truthful (holds fast to what my prophets have brought, and does not depart from my Sharia) has prospered and succeeded. (10) I am Mighty and Wise.

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Koranic allusion

# Sura 20:1-3 (Core/F28/Mad/Sprenger)

(1) O David, listen to what I say, and tell Solomon after you to proclaim that I will give the earth as an inheritance to Muḥammad (God's prayers and peace be upon him) and his community. (2) They are the ones who praise me. They are not like you; they do not ring bells (lā yaṭinnūn bi-l-ṭānīn / lākin [lā takūn] salātuhum ka-l-sābi'īn, their prayer is [not] like that of the Sabaeans / let not your prayer to me be with tanabīr, stringed instruments) and they do not worship idols (and do not worship me with awtār, strings). (3) If you wish to (if a man does not, if you play a wind instrument to) worship me, then weep much! Every hour in which you do not mention me is an hour lost.

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# Sura 20:7-9 (Core/F28/Mad)

(7) And recount to the Children of Israel the story of two men who lived at the time of Idris [Enoch]. There arose for both a business opportunity just when an obligatory prayer had come due. Said the one: "As for me, I will begin with the command of God." Said the other: "As for me, I will begin with my business, and then I'll get around to God's command." So the one went off to his business, and other to his prayer. (8) So I inspired a cloud, and it set off toward the merchant (as far as the edge of the sky) and I commanded a dragon of the sky and it breathed and lit a fire that enveloped the merchant; but he was preoccupied with the cloud and the darkness, and missed both his business and his prayer. (9) So it was written over the door of his house: see what greed and the distractions of this world do to their patrons!

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- Preserves David's sin
- Qur'anic epithets

#### Sufi

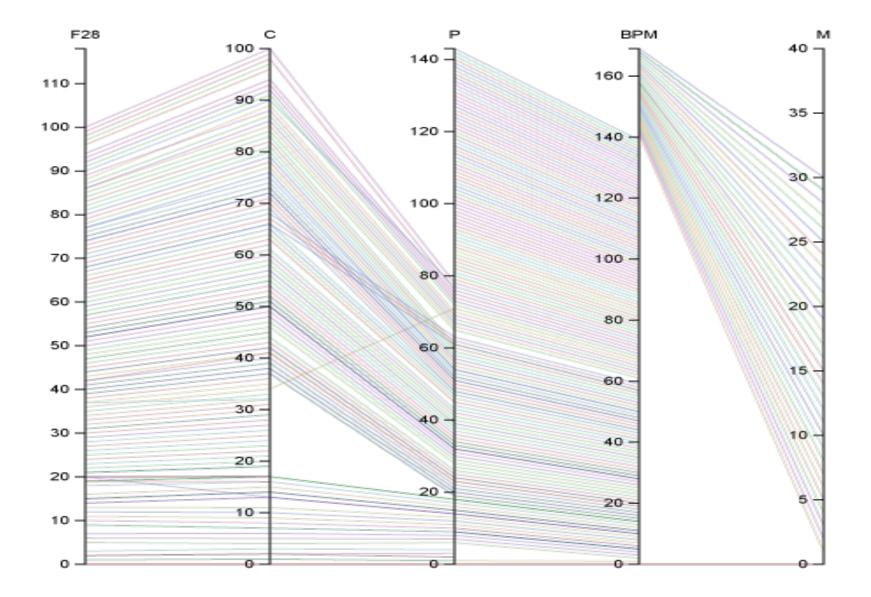
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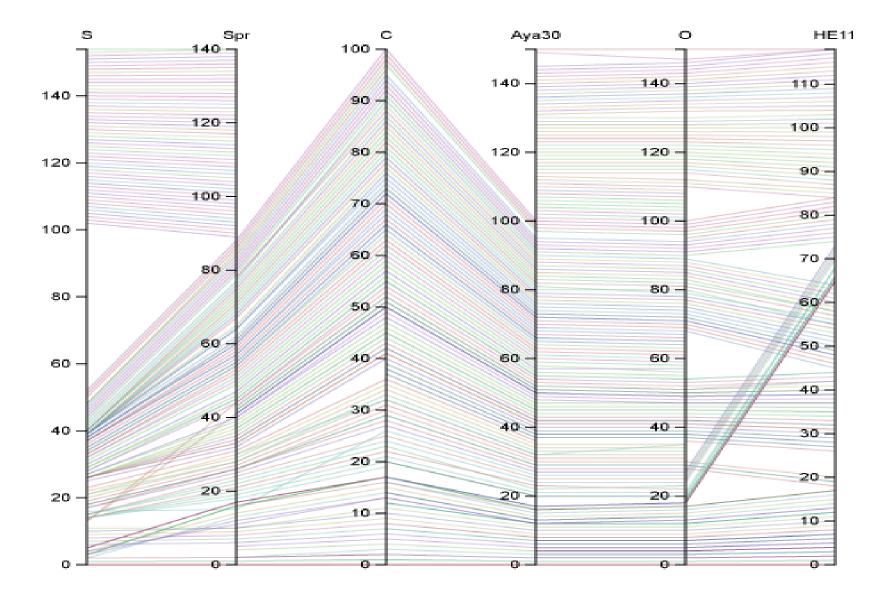
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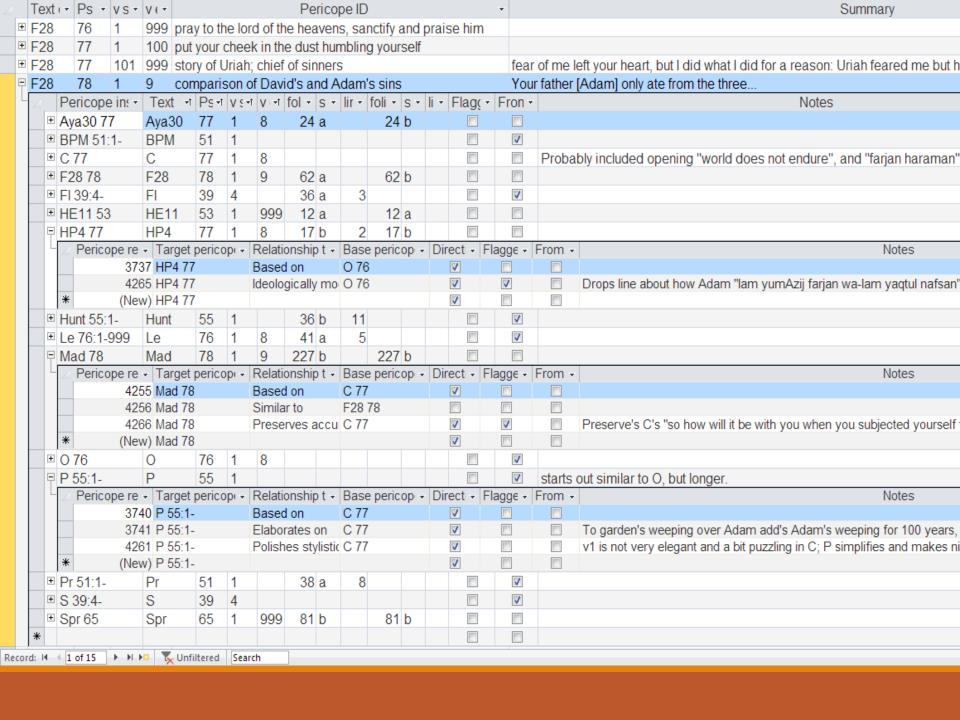
- elaboration, omission
- Sharia

# Sura 78 (Core/F28/Mad)

(1) This world is fleeting; there is no escaping her trials, and her calamities are ever present. (2) David, I swear by my own honor and glory: I will surely give you such a [lowly] station, compared to Uriah, that the earth will shudder and the angels droop their wings [aghast]! (3) No one's wickedness will get past me on that day! (4) Your father Adam was to me the kindest of the kind, the dearest and the nearest. (5) He did not kill, or pollute himself with forbidden women; I merely forbade him to eat of a certain tree, and he ate of it. (6) Yet for that his crown fell from his head, the Garden wept for him, and I consigned him to remorse. (7) So how will it be with you, when you made yourself subject to retaliation and claims for compensation! (8) If you only realized how that man [Uriah] will demand your punishment, you would bewail yourself still more. (9) I am Forbearing and Mighty. (I am the best of judges.)







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- Koranic epithets
- Biblical parallel
- Human voice (quoted)

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# Sura 108 (only in F28 / only in Mad)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

(1) David said: Praise to you, my God! Forgive me my sin, for truly my sin upsets me and saps my strength. (2) My God, if you do not forgive me I will be left penniless among the destitute. (3) But what is my sin to one as great as you, O my God, and what is my punishment to one who rules over everything? (4) My God, make me one of the righteous, who do not keep going back to their sins, (5) and give me a tongue of truth and holiness. If I utter praises, let my tongue declare your holiness; when I declare your praises, let my cares take wing, and let my bones exalt you. (6) For you are (I am) Wealthy and Worthy of praise.

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# Sura 118 (only in F28 / only in Mad)

In the name of God the Merciful the Compassionate.

# (1) God's prayers and great peace be upon Muhammad and his family.

(2) O David, a man who gets puffed up (al-rajul al-muntafikh / a haughty person, al-mutakabbir) in this life, when death is breathing down his neck (min khalf qafā'ih / behind him, min khalfih), is like a man who mounts a nice tame horse which then runs away with him and kills him. (3) So it is with the haughty in this life: he exalts himself one day and death takes him the next. (4) O David, portray me to my creatures as generous and merciful: (5) whoever devotes himself to me, I satisfy him; whoever asks me, I give him; but whomever I smite in anger, I destroy. (6) I am Powerful and Mighty.

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#### K's Ibn 'Abbās additions

- Koranic language
- Koranic view of religions
- References to Koran

Ibn 'Abbās 1 (only in F28 / only in Mad)

O David, I am God, the greatest king, holy, forceful, proud. I am God, the lord of all things, and there is no god other than me. I am pleased with with my servants when they obey me, and I am displeased with them when they disobey me. I am God, and there is no god but me. This is my testament (wasiyyati), my religion, followed by the people of heaven and earth. My testament to the prophets before you was the testimony that there is no god but God.

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# Ibn 'Abbās 17 (F28)

... O David, I sent down to you a book, so accept it and do **not go beyond it** (*tujāwizhu*) **to another.** The laws and judgments of the Torah are incumbent upon you.

... There is no God but God. Muḥammad is the prophet of God. He will come at the end of time as a prophet to the Arabs. He will conquer the non–Arabs (al-'ajam); the east and west of the earth will be laid open to him. He is the best of the prophets and their chief, the best of creatures, honored above the prophets. Blessed are those who believe in him; blessed are those who follow him; blessed are those who emigrate with him; and blessed are those guided by him.

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#### "From Psalm 23" (F28)

(1) O David, **shamelessness** spoils beauty, darkens hearts, and breeds insults and quarrels. (2) Listen, O David, and ponder my Speech and my Book. There has never been a brazen-faced soul, stripped of the mantle of shame, but for one of the following three reasons: either his father had intercourse with his mother without saying the basmallah, so that he did so in the presence of a devil; or he had intercourse with his mother during her flow of blood; or he had intercourse with her in a state of impurity from a nocturnal emission, which is caused by devilish tempters. (3) Tell the Children of Israel to avoid intercourse in the state of impurity from a nocturnal emission, lest their children be little devils. (4) Tell the Children of Israel not to lean to the right side more than the left, or to the left side more than the right, in the heat of sexual intercourse, but to hold their chests up straight in the act, that they may be granted upright children. (5) And let them do with their wives as they do with their food, beginning in my name and finishing with my praise. (6) And let them not lust after strangers, and then have intercourse with their wives instead, lest their descendants be marred with effeminacy. (7) For one who sins in his heart while having intercourse with his spouse is like a man who buries some seed that he has stolen: I slacken its growth, and withdraw my blessing from it.

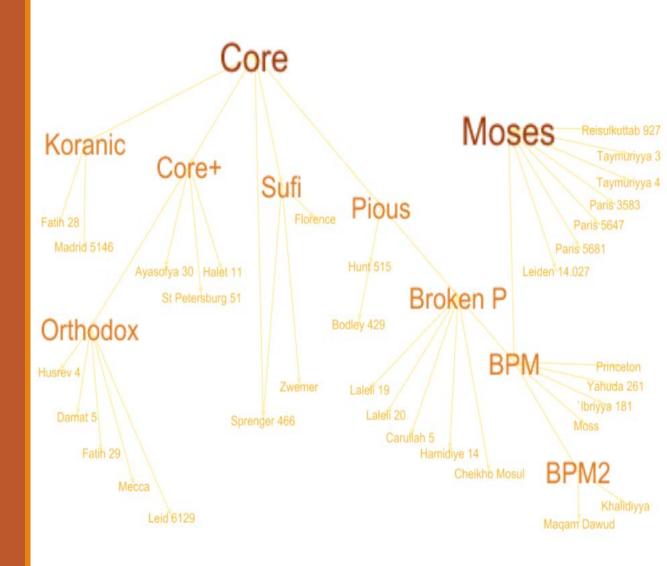
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