

Images of David in Several Muslim Rewritings of the Psalms

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- The Islamic psalm texts
 - A sample psalm: David and Uriah in heaven
 - Old diagram
 - Updated diagram
- Portraits of David
 - Psalmist & sinner
 - Caliph & prophet
 - *Adīb* & scholar
- David's sin
 - What did he do?
 - Excuses
 - Sensuality
- Different Davids for different Muslims

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 - David repents
 - Ascetic piety
 - Qur'anic style

O David, next I say to you: let my Book pour forth from you; recite it to the resurrected [in paradise]! If Uriah hears you, he will pursue vengeance upon you with all his might, and will start to beat you as you stand in the pulpit of the prophets. When he strikes you, the crown of prophecy will fall from your head, the pulpit will vanish from beneath you, and the wild beasts will come after you for payment [of Uriah's blood money]. I will make the two of you enemies, and so it will be until I dispose him favorably toward you; so be meek in spirit and repent.

I have commanded you to ask forgiveness, and if you ask me for forgiveness I will accept you; but you asked my forgiveness without desisting from sin. Turn to me in repentance and I will receive you! Turning to me in repentance from your sins is like land on which much blood has been poured out: the rain comes and washes away what was on the face of the earth. Such are your sins and your repentance.

O Children of Adam, when you consider your sins, laugh little and weep much! Weep for shame before me, and I will cover over your evil deeds. I am fully aware of what you do. (S 72, Fl 59a.6-59b.3)

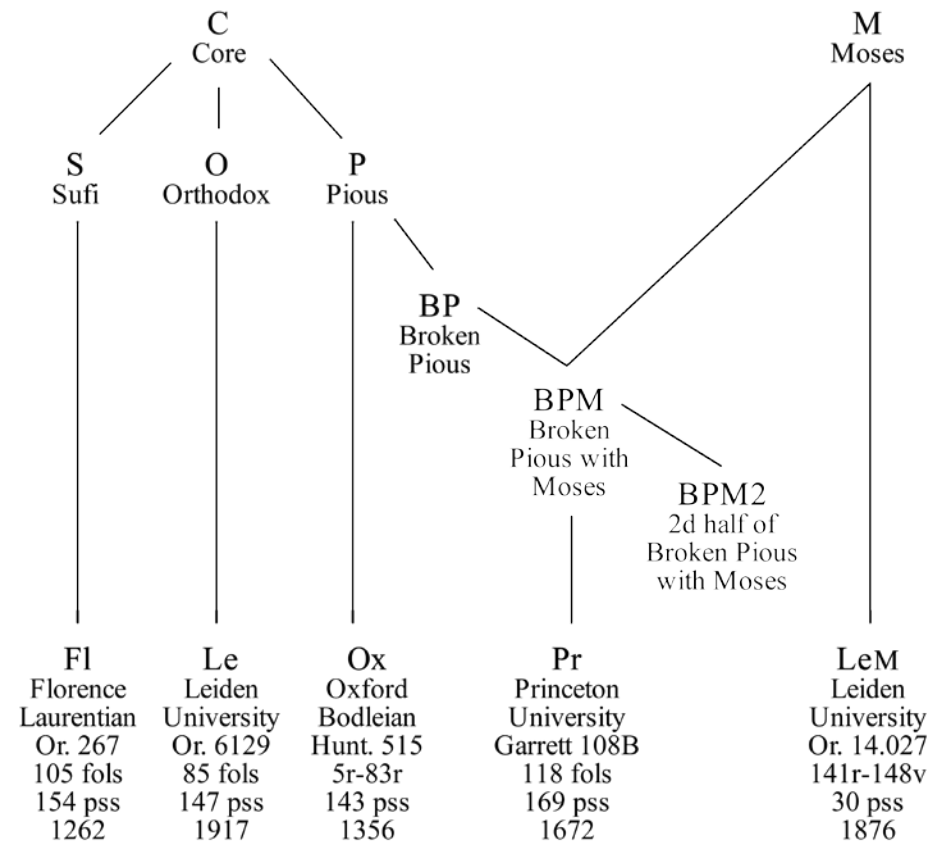
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Source collections

Redacted and
expanded texts

Additional extant
recensions

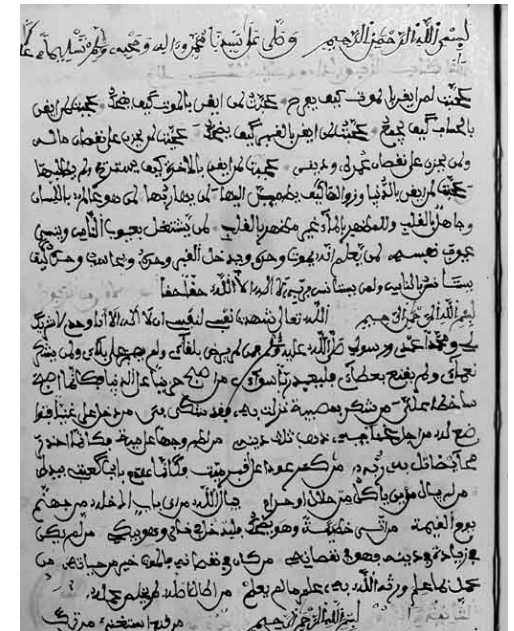
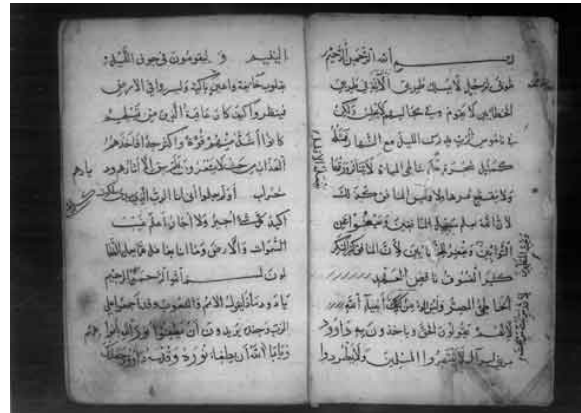
Manuscripts
used in this study



The Islamic psalm texts

A sample psalm: David and Uriah in heaven

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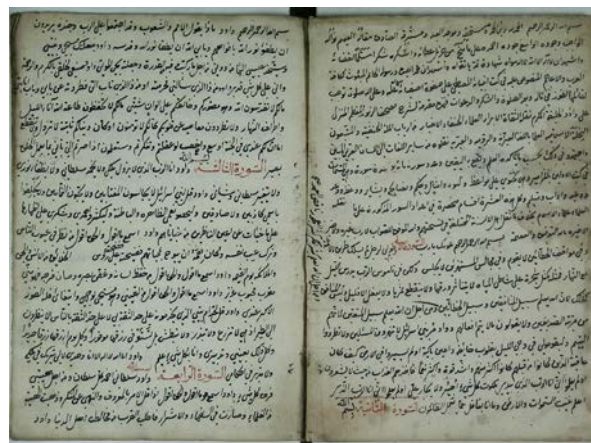
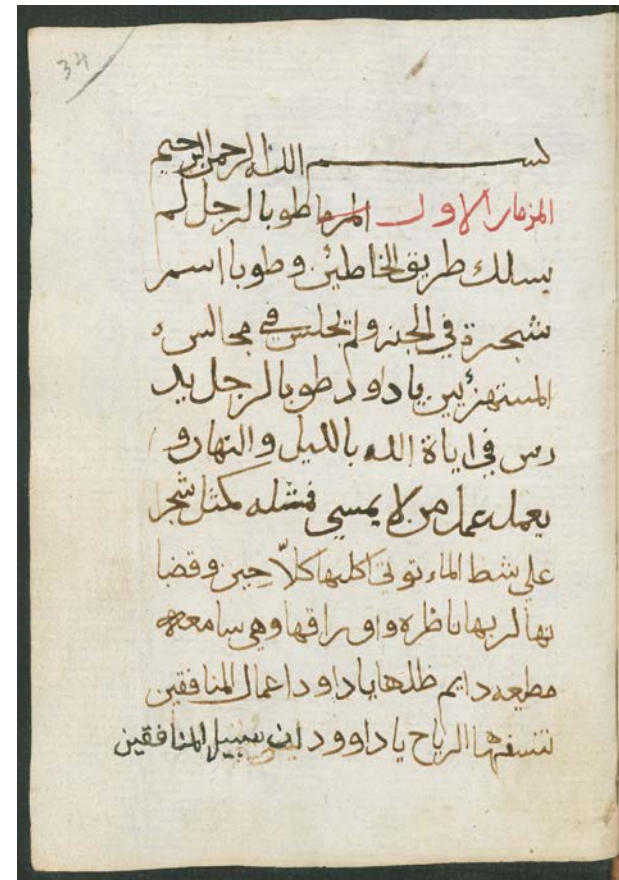
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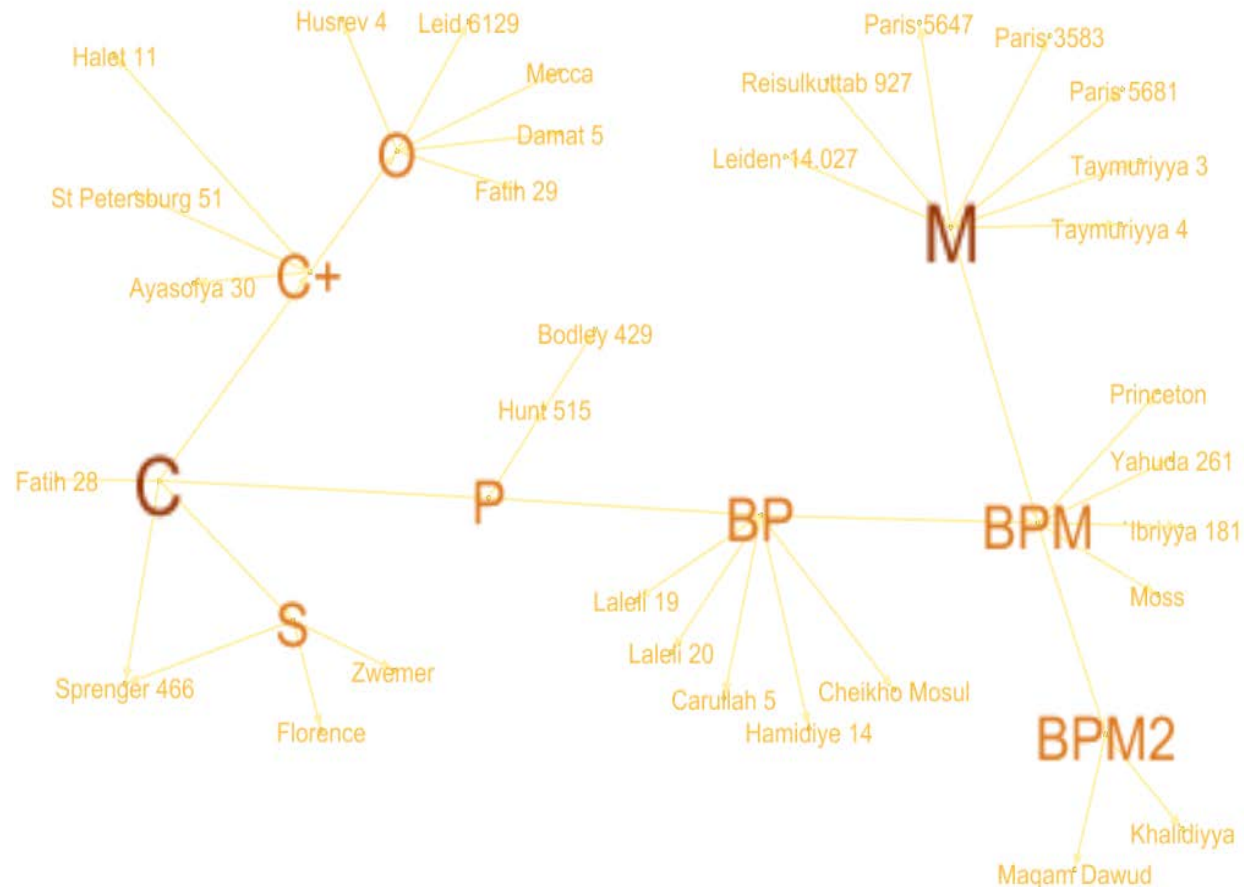
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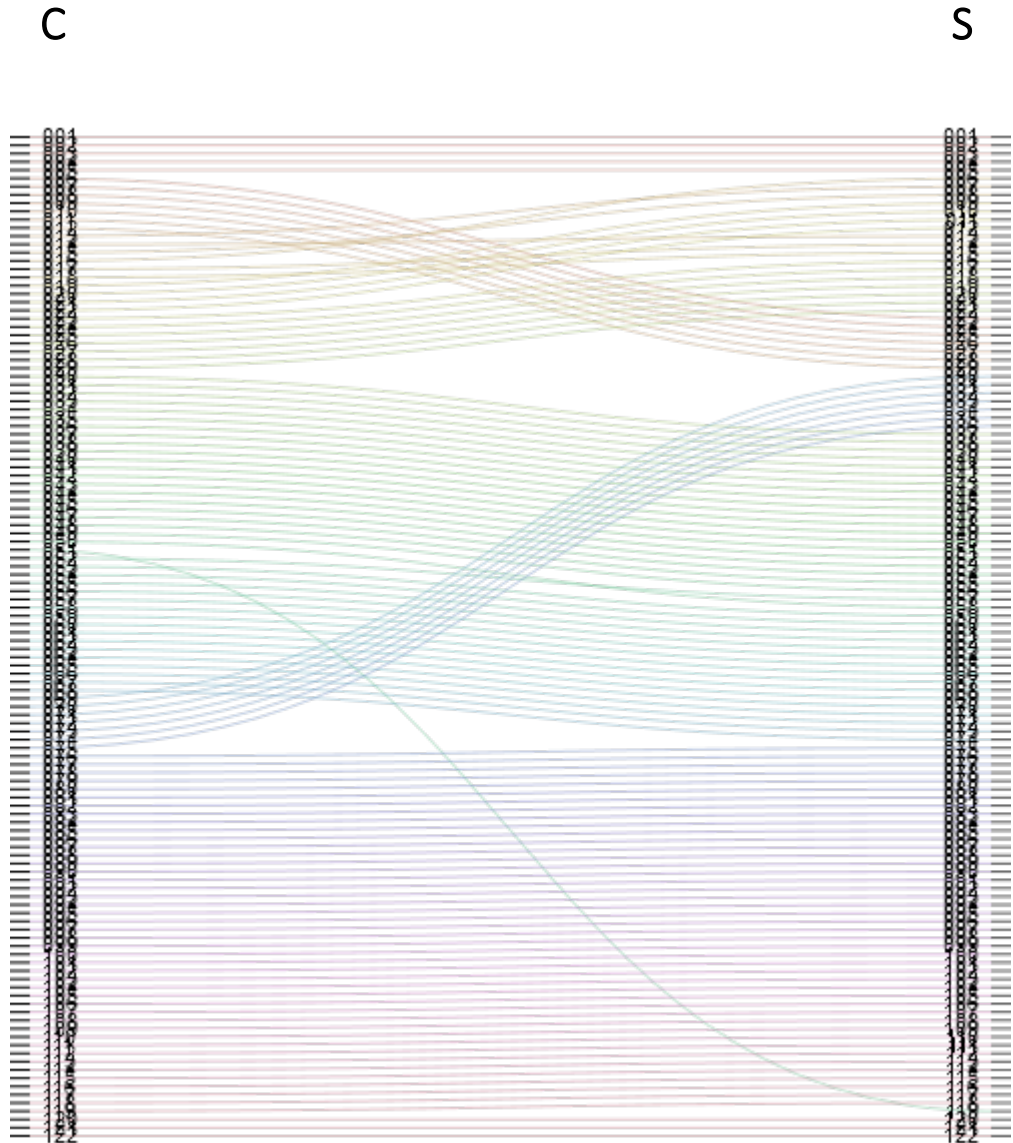


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Original in Core 14: O David, once you were endowed with a deeply moving voice, before you rebelled against me; but when you rebelled I snatched the light of wisdom from your chest – though **if you repent I will restore some of it to you.**
(C 14:6-7 = Fatih 15:6-7, 16a.8-16b.3)

Parallel in Sufi 2: 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 to you.**
(S 2:8, FI 3b.7-9)

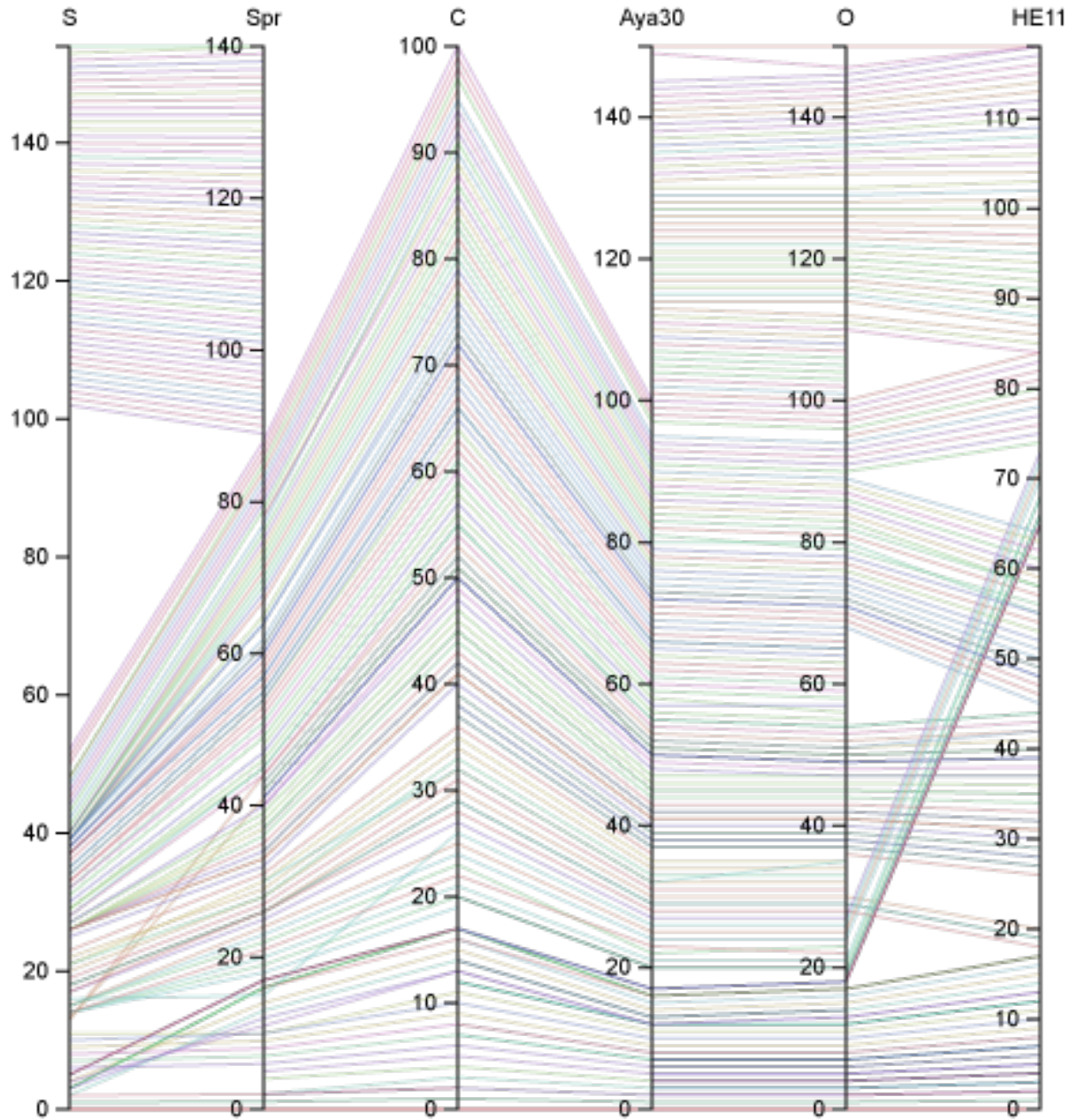
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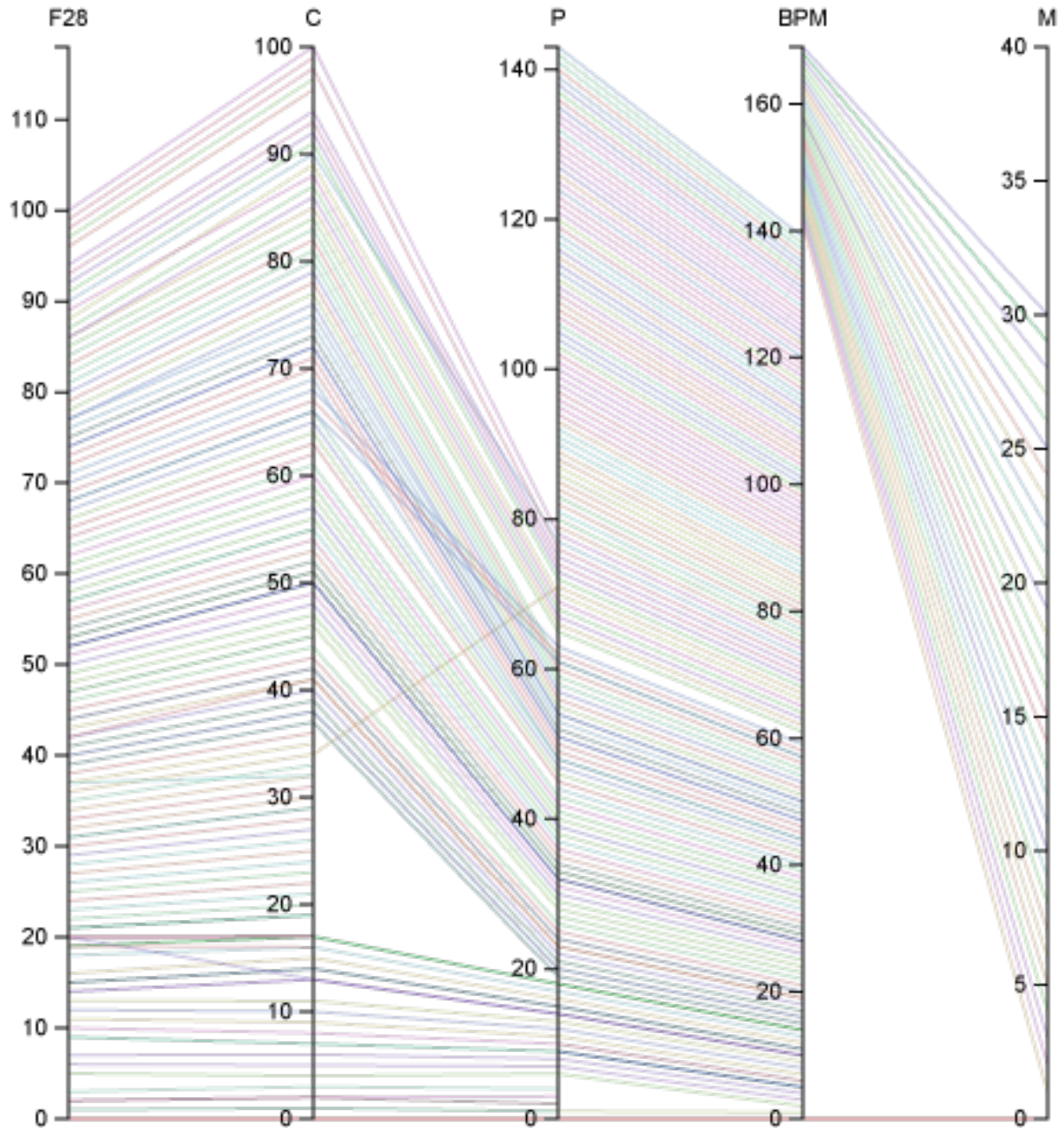
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Pericope instances with parallels and relationships												
Text	Ps	vs	v	Pericope ID								
C	14	1	2	make me your refuge								
C	14	3	3	be devoted to me								
C	14	4	5	those who do as they please								
C	14	6	7	deeply moving voice								
<div> <div>Pericope in:</div> <div>Text</div> <div>Ps</div> <div>vs</div> <div>v</div> <div>fol</div> <div>s</div> <div>lir</div> <div>foli</div> <div>s</div> <div>li</div> </div>												
<div> <div>Pericope re</div> <div>Target pericope</div> <div>Relationship t</div> <div>Base pericope</div> <div>Dir</div> </div>												
<div> <div>4219</div> <div>Aya30 13:6-7</div> <div>Based on</div> <div>C 14:6-7</div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>*</div> <div>(New) Aya30 13:6-7</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>												
BPM	11	6	7									
C	14	6	7									
F28	15	6	7	16 a	8	16 b	3					
<div> <div>Pericope re</div> <div>Target pericope</div> <div>Relationship t</div> <div>Base pericope</div> <div>Dir</div> </div>												
<div> <div>4213</div> <div>F28 15:6-7</div> <div>Based on</div> <div>C 14:6-7</div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>*</div> <div>(New) F28 15:6-7</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>												
FI	2	8	9	3 b	3 b							
Hunt	15	6	7									
Le	14	6	7									
O	14	6	7									
P	15	6	7									
Pr	11	6	7	13 b	9	14 a	3					
S	2	8	9									
<div> <div>Pericope re</div> <div>Target pericope</div> <div>Relationship t</div> <div>Base pericope</div> <div>Dir</div> </div>												
<div> <div>4216</div> <div>S 2:8-9</div> <div>Based on</div> <div>C 14:6-7</div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>4220</div> <div>S 2:8-9</div> <div>Ideologically mo</div> <div>C 14:6-7</div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>*</div> <div>(New) S 2:8-9</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>												
<div> <div>*</div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>												
C	15	1	Prayer of my servant in distress									

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 - Reorderings
 - Database
 - Correspondences



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Orthodox 113 (editorial addition to Core+): O David, ask my forgiveness with your whole heart. I singled you out for kingship, made you my caliph on the earth, and sent down to you the Book [of Psalms] (*al-zabūr*) as a warning and a reminder. Recite it correctly; therein have I sent down to you guidance and light. (O 113:1-4a, Le 60a.7-9)

Fatih 112 (unique): O David, I brought together for you [in the Psalms] culture (*al-ādāb*), exhortations (*al-mawāʿiz*) and reports (*al-akhbār*) to serve as signs to the worlds. (Fatih 112:1, 82b.6-7)

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Core 78: O David, you are the one who judges yourself, the one who **causes men to be stricken that he might enjoy what they used to enjoy**. I knew beforehand that I would build palaces for you, but when you did what you did I knew beforehand that I would diminish for you those palaces—and what calamity is greater than a calamity that diminishes your station before God? (Fatih 79:1-2 63a.1-4, similar to S 39).

Pious 56: O David I made you my Caliph on the earth that you might **judge rightly between people, but you followed your fancy** rather than obey your Lord and preferred your desire over the truth. O David, I had prepared for you a palace in paradise, but when you did what you did I brought you down from the station that you previously had with me. (P 56:1-2, Hunt 37b.2-6)

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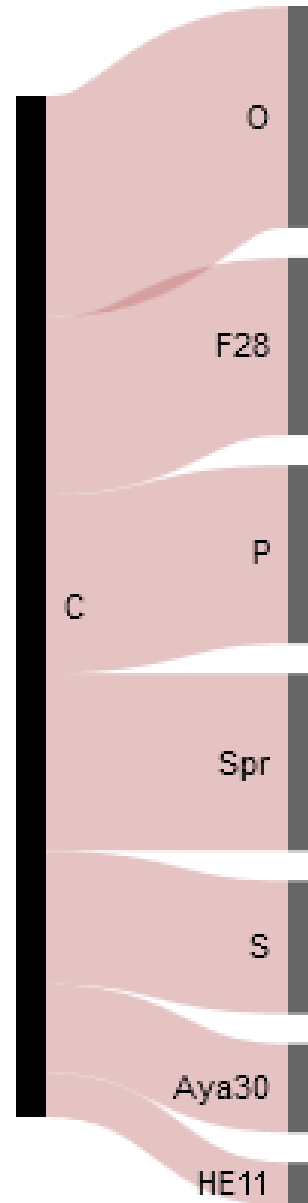
Core 76: [David,] I made what you did to be an occasion for the man to deserve the station of the righteous: that is, **Uriah** was a man who **feared me**, but his son did not have that same fear, and **I wished to gladden him with a child** of his own offspring. (Aya 76, 24a.8-11)

Fatih 77: [David,] you did what you did so that the man might deserve the station of the righteous: that is, he used to fear me greatly, but **his father did not have that same fear**, and **I wished not to gladden him with a child** of his own offspring. (Fatih 77, 61b.8-62a.2)

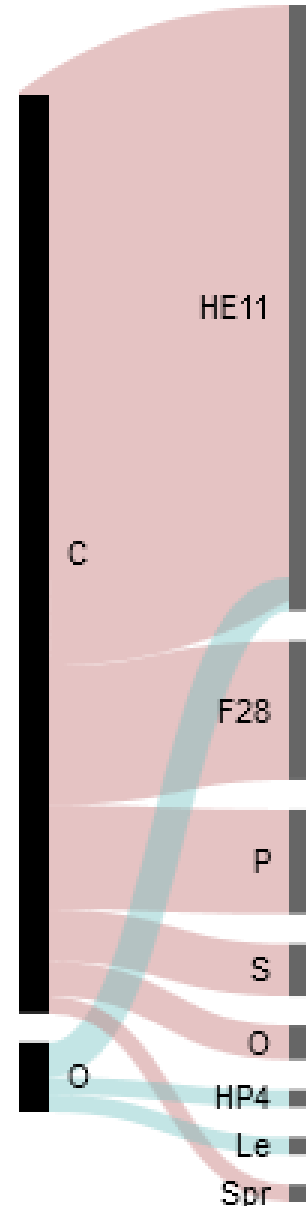
Orthodox 75: [David,] you brought about an occasion for the man to deserve the station of the righteous: that is, **Uriah's grandfather** was a man who **feared me**, but his son did not have that same fear, and **I wished to gladden him in paradise with a child** of his own offspring. (Le 75, Le 40b.10-41a.1)

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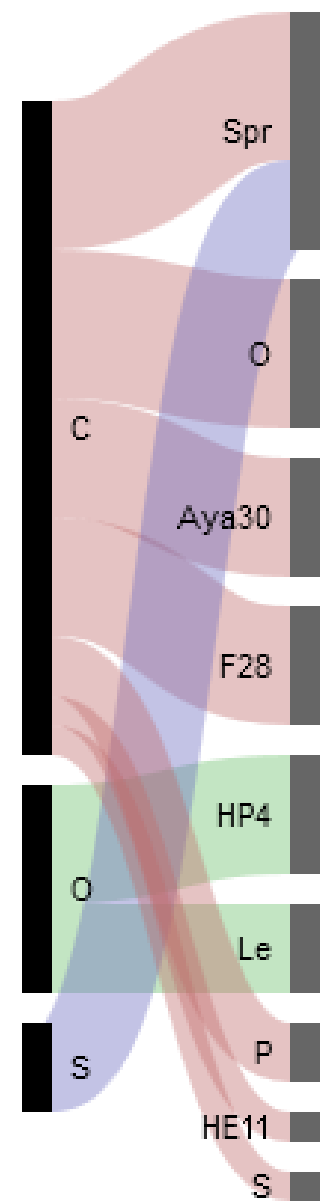
Ideological changes



Additions



Corruptions



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Sufi 18: The words of David (peace be upon him): My God, my sins have aged my face, humbled my weakness, and made my heart and my eyes to weep. My God, **does the Devil have no other net than women?** I have humbled my face before you; here I am praying to you night and day, if only you would receive me. (S 18:6-8, FI 20a.5-8)

Similar in Core (Fatih and Halet Efendi).

Omitted in Ayasofia, Sprenger, and Orthodox.

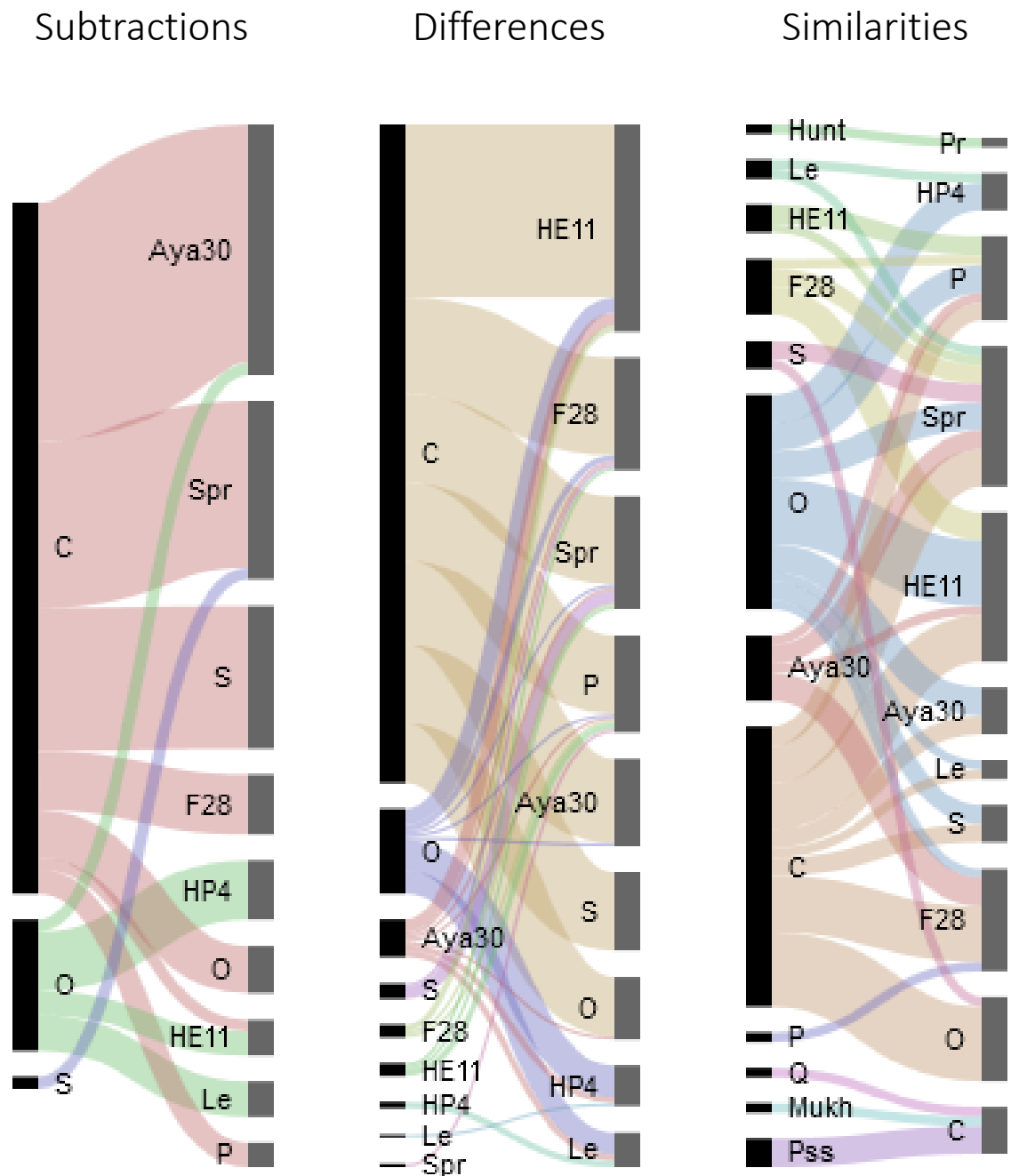
Orthodox 29: David said: My God, I have humbled my face before you; I pray night and day; if only you would receive me. (O 29:6, Le 22a.3)

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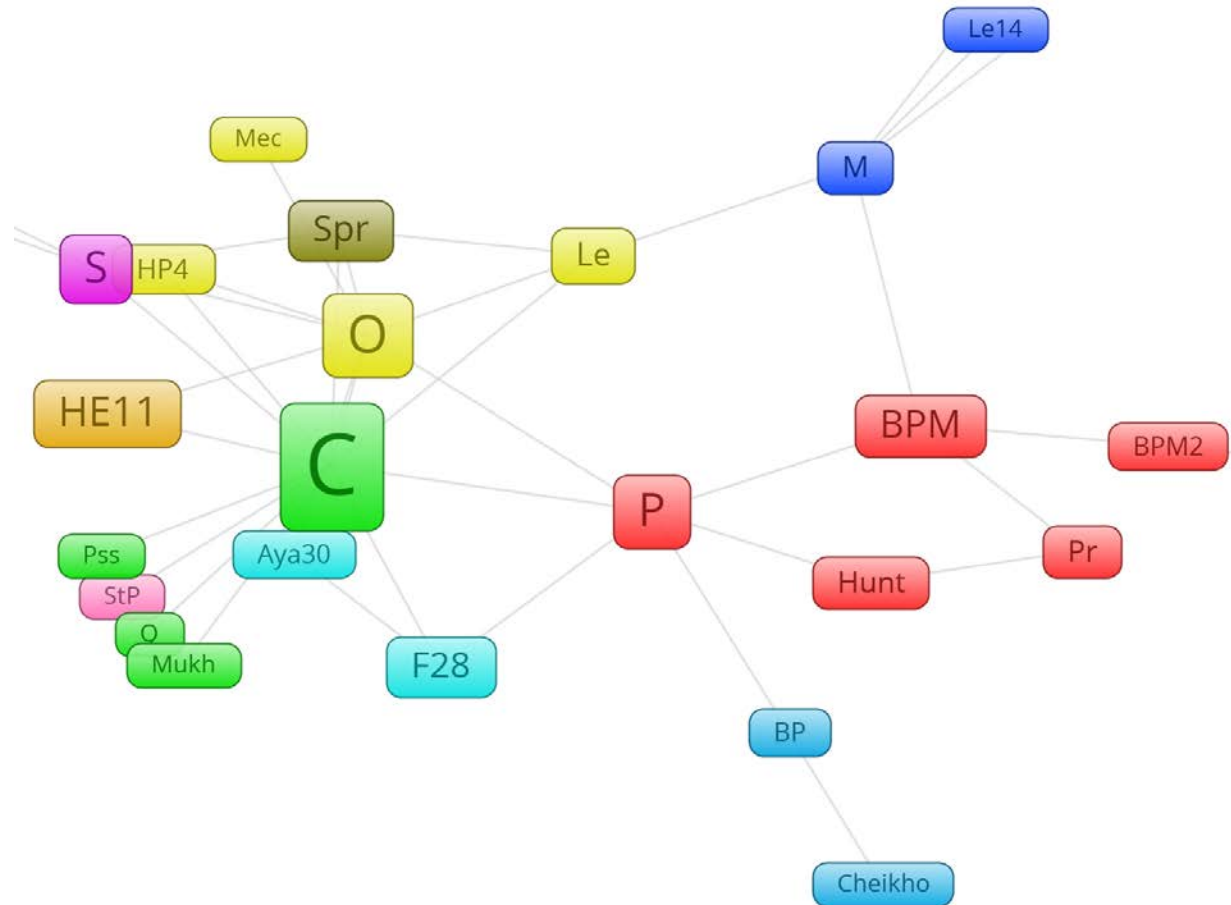
Orthodox 7: David, lower your gaze away from the believers' wives, that the world might present itself to you bashfully. David, **if a beautiful woman passes by**, remember that you will stand before me. Ask me for wisdom; **ask me and I will marry her to you in this world and the next.** (O 7:2-3, Le 6b.4-7)

Pious 9: O David, lower your gaze away from the believers' wives; the world presents itself to you bashfully. O David, lower your gaze **if a beautiful woman passes by**, and remember that you will stand before me on the day of resurrection. Ask me for paradise, and **ask me to marry her to you on the day of resurrection in paradise.** (P 9:2-3, Hunt 11b.6-9)

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