David R. Vishanoff

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Oklahoma

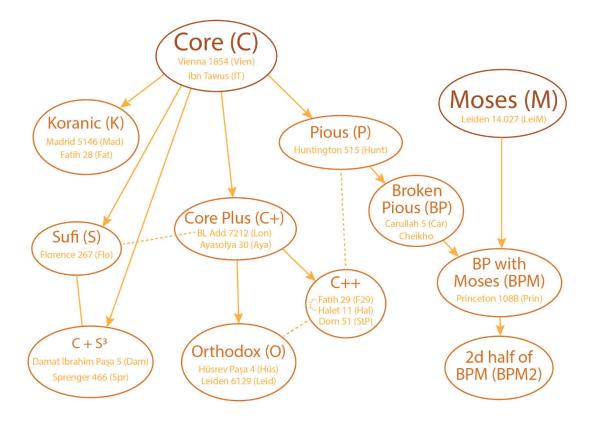
Workshop on Muslim Readings of the Bible

The Argument from Scripture — De/Sacralization of Text

September 27–29, 2023, Center for Islamic Theology, University of Tübingen

Abstract

The Zabūr Dāwūd is an Islamic pseudo-scripture, the "Psalms of David" reimagined and rewritten along Qur'anic lines by an ascetic Muslim preacher in the 8th or 9th century CE. The original collection of 100 psalms, now lost, was modified and expanded by editors and copyists over the following centuries, resulting in ten different recensions that are extant today in libraries around the world, many of them in 18th-century Ottoman collections. This presentation will introduce the contents of the Zabūr Dāwūd using the first "sūra," which is partly based on the Biblical Psalm 1 and partly a new composition in Qur'anic style. We will then compare the visual presentation of that $s\bar{u}ra$ in two manuscripts from Ottoman collections that were produced 400 years apart and reflect very different understandings of the text's significance. The first was made in 1303 and subsequently annotated with profuse interlinear and marginal glosses and Qur'anic parallels; four centuries later it was bequeathed by Nevşehirli Damat İbrahim Pasha, grand vizier of Ahmed III, to the library he established in Istanbul in 1720. The second copy was made in 1755 in Jerusalem by a scribe at the Haseki Sultan waqf for Ahmed Agha, chief eunuch and supervisor of waqfs under Osman III, who saw David's Zabūr while visiting Jerusalem and requested a copy; it was later bequeathed by Abdul Hamid I to the library he built in 1780. This copy's detailed gilded illumination suggests that by the 18th century the text was no longer perceived as material for pious meditation but as a collectible relic, an ancient scripture worthy of a place in a Sultan's collection of antiquities alongside David's sword and exquisite copies of the Qur'an.



Bio

David Vishanoff is Associate Professor of Islamic studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Oklahoma, where he teaches courses on the Qur'an, Islamic theology, Islamic law, and comparative topics in religious studies. He received his Ph.D. in West and South Asian Religions from Emory University in 2004. His research is principally concerned with how religious people interpret and conceptualize sacred texts—both their own and those of other religious traditions. His first two books dealt with medieval theories of Qur'anic interpretation; he has been extending that project into the modern period, beginning in Indonesia where he spent the spring of 2013 as a Fulbright scholar. His other long–term projects are an epistemology and pedagogy of "sacrificial listening" and a series of studies on Muslim uses of the Bible, for which he is reconstructing and translating an eighth–century Muslim rewriting of the "Psalms of David."

(1.1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the way of the wicked, nor stands in the stations of sinners, nor sits in the seats of scoffers; but in the law of the Lord he studies night and day. He is like a tree by the water's edge, whose leaves are not scattered and whose fruit does not fail. But few are those who act thus! A hypocrite is not so, for God knows the way of hypocrites and the way of sinners: a hypocrite is full of deception, given to licentiousness, a breaker of covenants. And God knows the way of the Godfearing: they have the rank of the truthful, and they say nothing that their actions do not bear out.

(1.2) David, command the Children of Israel not to drive away the poor or cast out the orphan, but let them arise in the dark of night with fearful hearts and tearful eyes. Have they not roamed the earth and contemplated the fate of those who came before them—people more numerous than they and stronger, forming greater communities, yet torment seized them unawares? Do they not realize that I am the Lord in whose hand is complete dominion, who delivers, but from whose hand none can deliver? Do they not realize that I am the Lord who knows the hidden secrets of heaven and earth? I am not unmindful of what the evildoers do.

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

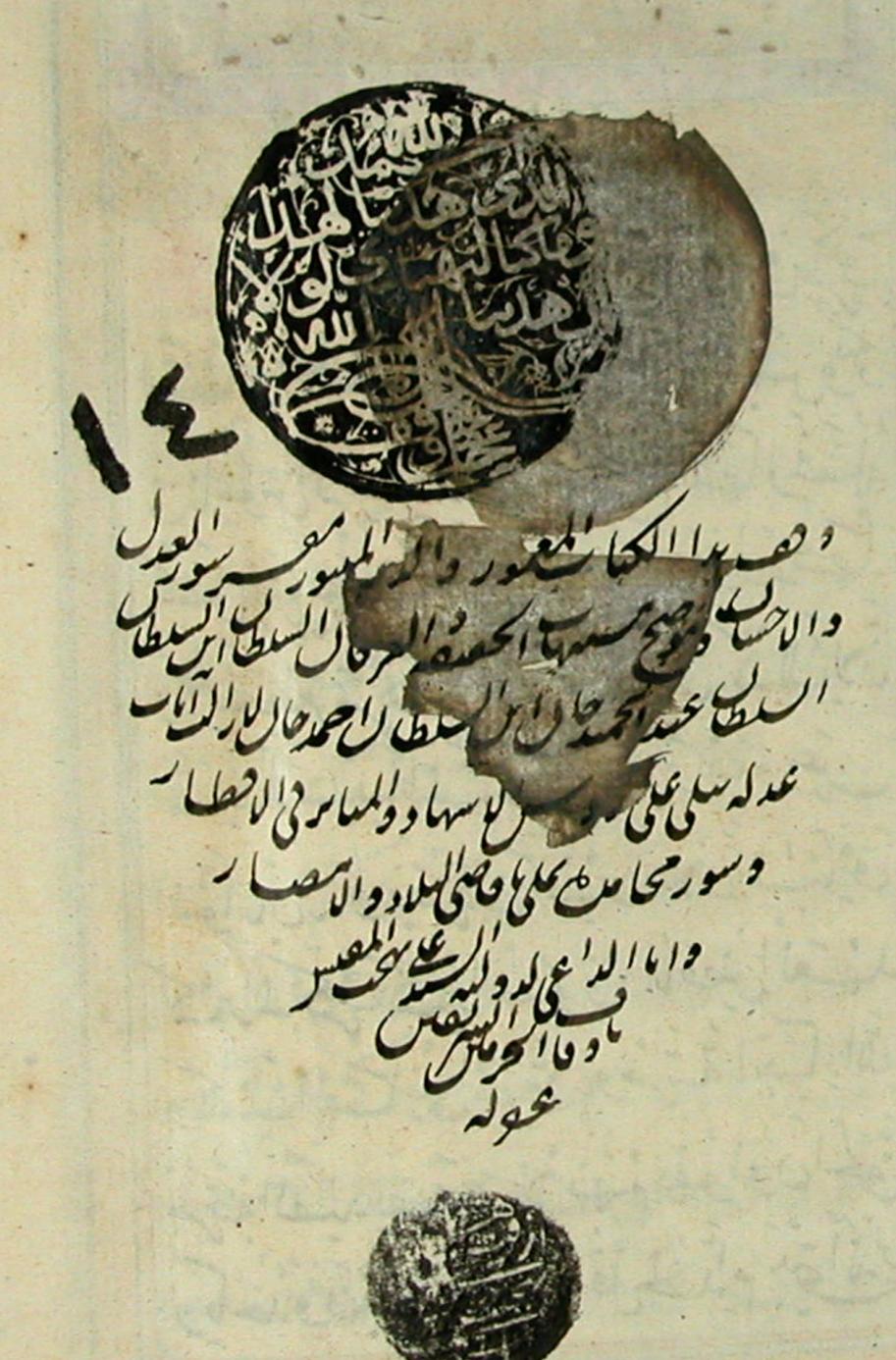
(1.1) طوبي لرجل لا يسلك طريق الأثّمة وفي مواقف الخاطئين لا يجلس، ولكن في ناموس الرب يدرس الليل مع النهار، فمَثَله كمثل شجرة على شاطئ المياه لايتناثر ورقها ولا ينقتع ثمرها، وما يفعله إلّا قليل. وليس المنافق كذلك لأنّ الله يعلم سبيل المنافقين وسبيل الخاطئين، من أجل أنّ المنافق كثير المكر كثير الفجور ناقض العهد، ومن أجل أنّ الله يعلم سبيل المتقين لأنّهم في مرتبة الصدّيقين ولا يقولون إلّا ما سبيل المتقين لأنّهم في مرتبة الصدّيقين ولا يقولون إلّا ما تتمّ به أفعالُهم.

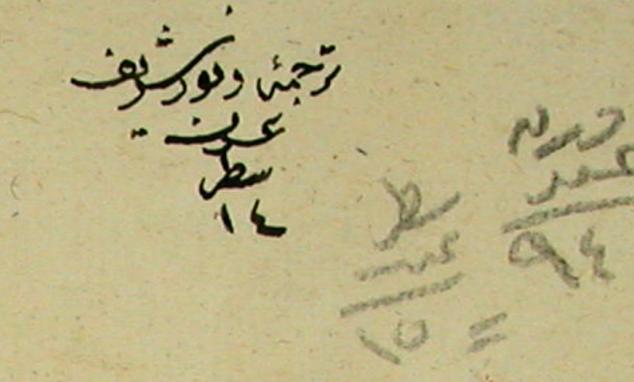
(1.2) داود مر بني إسرائيل لا ينتهروا المسكين ولا يطردوا اليتيم، وليقوموا في دجى الليل بقلوب خائفة وأعين باكية. أولم يسيروا في الأرض فينظروا كيف كان عاقبة الذين من قبلهم؟ كانوا أكثر منهم وأشد قوّة وأكثر جمعاً فأخذهم العذاب من حيث لا يشعرون. أولم يعلموا أني أنا الربّ الذي بيدي ملكوت كلّ شيء، أجير ولا يُجار عليّ؟ أولم يعلموا أني أنا الربّ الذي أعلم غيب السهاوات والأرض؟ وما أنا بغافل عمّا يعمل الظالمون.



السيم للله الرح النام وبالما المع المع المع والما المع المع والما المع والمع والما المع الكركسيراللي فأفض العمد ومزلج لكتالسنع معنكلام للتهاسم فانبر جاود وهوت مرعلها يه سَي النَّفِينَ لانعُم في مُن بِرَالصِديقِينَ ولايقولون واربعة وغسان سورة سورة الاوليظ في الم الدّمانيّم بدأفعاله واودوم ريف السِرام الانتهافيا . فالمعروا النفار المنالخ والمناكم والمنا والمين ولايطرة واليتم وليقومواني وكالليك ملاتمرن المارة المالة المارة المالة ال الخاورة في المراق المنافق وفي السلطة عن المنافق المناف المَا الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمِدِيرُ الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُعَارِفِينَ الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُعِلِي الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُدَالِينَ الْمُدَالِينَالِينَالِ الْمُدَالِينَالِينَالِينَالِينَالِينَالِينَ الْمُدَالِينَالِ سنظره النف كان عافية النين من عبلهم عانول الوي شاطي المنا لأننا وكانتها ولانتظاف ولانتطاف فاسك المنومن موقوة والمنوعث فلفذ فعالعذاب محيث والمنافقة الما يفع لم إلا قليل في ليسل في المنافقة المالية المالية المالية المالية المالية المالية المالية الم لاستعرون اولم يُعلم انى اناالر الذي الذي سدى

Saleymaniye U. Kuralinge
Kısmı Hamidiye
Yeni Kayıtını 19





افول اداماً افول فللخمر بالمعروف والهيءنالمنك ودهبت الهينة مالعلا وصارت في المسرار والاسف العالمات الهرب من فحالطة اهل لدنيا الماد أود السمع ما افول وللفق افول المولى لمن عمل المسمع ما افول وللفق افول المسمع ما افول المسمع من المسم فليه بذكري واخرية من ذكرالب اس موبي لمن جعلى همنه وقضاع الانظول الحالليل كفأرزقكم فيه خلاف التوم



بر مورد