

Abstract

The Qur'ān is the holy book of Islam and the main source of all creeds, laws, practices and devotional life of the Muslims. It is believed to be the Word of God and absolute in its teachings. The people of other faiths including the pagans of Arabia, the Jews and the Christians have been raising questions against the Prophet of Islam (Peace be upon him) and the Divine Message brought by him since the time it was communicated. The same was done by the Orientalists in an organized way with modern critical methods and approaches. Arthur Jeffery an Australian-American Orientalist of 20th Century chose the Qur'ān for his critical study. His studies on textual criticism of the Qur'ān include, "Materials for the History of the Text of the Qur'ān ", "The Qur'ān as Scripture", "The Foreign Vocabulary of the Qur'ān" and "The Koran: Selected Suras" besides a few articles on the subject. This dissertation seeks to study Jeffery's works in terms of three main dimensions namely, the Compilation, Arrangement and Recital Variants of the Qur'ān. Analytical, historical and comparative methods have been used to evaluate his studies. This examination reveals that denial of divine scheme of preservation of the Qur'ān promised by the Almighty, denial of Hadith, selective use of evidence, the use of western critical methods and the consideration of unauthentic Islamic sources make Jeffery's major part of work unacceptable, though at times he seems to be realistic.