

# Contents

Foreword <i>by James Piscatori</i>	xi
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Western Scholarship and the Early History of the Qur'an: A Short History of Qur'anic Studies in the West</b>	<b>7</b>
Discovering the Biblical Roots of the Qur'an	7
Challenging the Muslim Narrations	14
Syriac Influence on the Qur'an	19
The Wansbrough School	25
Decoding Wansbrough	27
'Muslim Conspiracy' Against the Qur'an	30
<b>2 Muslim Response to the Criticisms of the Textual History of the Qur'an</b>	<b>37</b>
Convincing 'Non-Believers' of the Authenticity of the Qur'an:	
The Traditional Muslim Approach to the History of the Text	38
Arguing Historicity of the Qur'an	49
Use of Archaeological Data	52
<b>3 The Shi'i Approach to the History of the Collection of the Qur'an</b>	<b>59</b>
Denial of Judeo-Christian Influence on the Qur'an	59
The Issue of <i>tahrif</i>	65
'Ali's Codex in the Earliest Shi'i Sources	68
The Collection of the Qur'an at the Time of the Prophet	71
<b>4 Introduction to <i>isnād-cum-matn</i> Methodology</b>	<b>75</b>
The <i>isnād-cum-matn</i> Method in the Assessment of the Sunni Traditions	
Regarding the Collection of the Qur'an	82
Employment of the <i>isnād-cum-matn</i> Method on Fewer Variant Traditions	84
Criticism of the Method	86

<b>5 Traditions Attributed to Muḥammad Al-Bāqir</b>	<b>95</b>
<i>Group One Variants</i>	96
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	97
Investigating the Identity of the Reporter	99
An Analysis of al-Kāfi's <i>isnād</i> Patterns	106
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	113
<i>Group Two Variants</i>	117
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	118
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	122
<i>Group Three Variants</i>	127
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	127
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	131
<b>6 Traditions Attributed to ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭalīb</b>	<b>133</b>
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	134
A Brief Study of the Succession Crisis	143
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	147
<b>7 Traditions Attributed to Ja‘far al-Ṣādiq</b>	<b>153</b>
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	153
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	159
<b>8 Traditions Attributed to Ibn Sirīn</b>	<b>165</b>
<i>Isnād Analysis</i>	165
<i>Matn Analysis</i>	174
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>183</b>
Appendix	189
Notes	245
Bibliography	271